MISSISSIPPI'S PEOPLE

By
John C. Belcher
Morton B. King, Jr.

Bureau of Public Administration
University of Mississippi

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PREFACE

The area of public administration is frequently restricted by formal definition to include only those operations which have for their purpose the enforcement or fulfillment of some public policy. In this sense public administration is concerned with such subjects as the structure and organization, staffing, budgeting, direction, and coordination of government. Opposed to this narrow view is a trend of thought which holds that public administration cannot be divorced from certain broader aspects—the implications which flow from the economic activities and political aspects of government and from the social matrix in which government proceeds.

While the Bureau of Public Administration has published a number of studies which conform to a restricted definition of public administration, interest in the broad field has led to some excursions into legislative organization and procedure, municipal government, and technical services. Among these forays has been the Sociological Study Series, established in 1947. The first publication in the series dealt with housing problems and conditions in Mississippi. The present study, the second, is, as the title well indicates, about Mississippi's people. Facts about the state, its people, and their institutions are essential ingredients for the thinking of private citizen and public official alike in their efforts to meet present needs and plan future programs. The information found in books of this sort belongs to all interested citizens of the state.

Like all publications where two or more authors present joint work, there has been a division of responsibility. Mr. Belcher was responsible for the tabulation and preparation of all statistical material and for the basic interpretations of it. He prepared the original drafts of Chapters III through VI.

Mr. King prepared the original drafts of Chapters I, II, and VII. He also assumes responsibility for drafting and editing the study in its final form. Mrs. Betty Crump Hunt, Research Assistant in the Department of Sociology, tabulated the statistical data and prepared the figures under Mr. Belcher's direction.

The authors express their thanks to Mrs. Faye M. Rogers and Mrs. Dorothy H. Parks for clerical assistance and preparation of the manuscript for publication.

The Bureau of Public Administration in cooperation with the Department of Sociology is pleased to present this study as a public service.

Robert B. Highsaw
Director of the
Bureau of Public Administration
University of Mississippi

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS MISSISSIPPI?

This Mississippi to which we give allegiance, and of which we are a part, what is it?

Mississippi is land. It is 46,865 square miles of the earth's surface bounded on the north by Tennessee, on the east by Alabama, on the south by Louisiana and the soft waters of the Gulf and on the west by The River, the storied Mississippi. In its variety Mississippi is more than this. It is the old plantation area on the loamy bluffs around Natchez. It is the live oaks and moss, shipbuilding and tourists of the Coast. It is the rolling black soil and milk cows of the Prairie, the flat black soil and cotton of the Delta. It is red hills and fertile valleys in the north; oil wells, lumber mills and truck farms in the south.

Mississippi is more than its land and rivers; more than its natural resources, its farms and businesses.

Mississippi is history. There were the virgin forests and the Indians. The Chickasaw and Choctaw, the Natchez, the Tunica and Biloxi. In the 1500s DeSoto saw The River, and was buried in it. In the 1600s d'Iberville landed on the Coast and French settled on the lower river. In the 1700s English colonists came in increasing numbers across the wilderness to its settlements. In the 1800s there was the Natchez Trace and Jackson on the way to New Orleans. There was statehood and the Great Migration. There was War and Reconstruction, Jeff Davis and L. Q. C. Lamar. In the 1900s there have been floods and more war; Bilbo and Harrison spoke; oil flowed, and industry came.

Mississippi is more than its history. That is past; Mississippi is present, now, today.

Mississippi is institutions. It is a government, many governments. It is the Legislature and Governor in Jackson; and

courts, judges and policemen all over the state. It is 82 counties and 410 beats. It is the municipal governments of 295 villages, towns and cities. It is almost countless school, drainage and soil conservation districts. It is a part of the government of the United States of America.

Mississippi is many institutions, each helping to shape, guide and control the life of the state. It is 535,538[1] families living in homes, apartments, and in trailers. It is fathers and mothers, babies and grandparents, and maiden aunts. Mississippi is churches. From simple El Bethel on a northern hill to an imposing Main Street tower in Jackson, it is many churches. It is approximately 6,354[2] congregations of many faiths.

Mississippi is schools. It is 4,497 schools in which elementary courses are offered, of which 1,850 have only one room and one teacher. It is 749 high schools, large and small; good, bad and average. Their teachers, too, are part of Mississippi, an important part: 11,131 elementary teachers, 5,282 high school teachers, and 564 superintendents, principals and supervisors. Mississippi is many colleges, too many perhaps. It is 24 junior colleges, 14 four-year colleges, and the University. It is 21 colleges supported by taxes and 18 colleges supported privately, largely by churches.[3]

What is Mississippi? Mississippi is many things: It is soil and hills and rivers; but who found them, who conquered them and who uses them? It is history, past and present; but who made this history and who remembers it? It is agriculture, business and industry; but who plans, who manages and works, who buys and sells? Mississippi is government and churches, families and schools; but for whom do these institutions operate? Who works to preserve them? Who studies and votes, loves and prays?

[1]1940, United States Census.
[2]1936 Census of Religious Bodies.
[3]*Statistical Data on School Session*, 1947-48, (mimeo), Jackson: Division of Administration and Finance, Mississippi Department of Education.

Yes, Mississippi is many things; but above all it is people.

Mississippi is 2,130,000[4] people. All kinds of people, who have come to this soil by many and varied routes from all over the world. There are Williams and Reilly and Maclachlan in large numbers, and de Gravelles and Cohen and Vallatos in smaller numbers. There are White and Negro, Chinese and Indian. There are men and women, old and young. There are people living and working, being born and dying. Mississippi is people, their dreams and plans, their successes and failures. Mississippi is you and me; our past, and especially our future.

Mississippi is people, and this little book is about the people of Mississippi.

HOW DO WE FIND OUT ABOUT MISSISSIPPI PEOPLE?

There are two main sources of population information. One of these is the United States Census. When the Federal Government was organized, it was decided to determine the number of representatives allowed each state in the lower house of Congress by the number of persons in each state. This decision was written into the Constitution which also provided that "the actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."[5]

The first federal census was taken in 1790, and every tenth year from that day to this a count or enumeration of the people of each and all of the United States has been made, a task now in the hands of the Bureau of the Census of the Department of Commerce. As the years have passed, more and varied information has been obtained by the census. Actually there are now several censuses. The Population Census taken every ten years (1930,1940, etc.) is most important for our study here.

[4] 1949 Estimate by United States Census.
[5] *Constitution of the United States,* Article I, Section 2.

Persons employed in every locality are trained. Armed with long questionnaires, they knock at the door of every family and household in the nation within a few days' time. Records are made of the answers they get, and these are sent to Washington, D. C. There, skilled clerks and analysts with the aid of intricate machines count, add and arrange these facts into tables and maps. The results are published to be used by state and federal governmental offices, by business and industry, by organizations and by students. In April 1950 this population census will be made for the seventeenth time. Its main reports, however, will not be available for several years.

In the Population Reports are found the number of people and where they live by regions, states, counties, cities and beats. These reports show the age and sex, race and national origin, occupation and amount of education, and many other characteristics of the population. By comparing the results of several censuses, we can discover the changes in numbers and characteristics which are taking place. There is also information on how many and what kinds of people move from state to state, and from county to county within a state.

There is also a Census of Agriculture which is taken in the same way at the same time, and on the fifth year in between as well (1935,1945, etc.). There are censuses of Housing, of Labor, of Retail and of Wholesale Trade and of Manufacturing. These are taken in the decennial years, at about the same time as the Population Census.

Most city and college libraries have the Census Reports, certainly for the 16th Census taken in 1940. They will probably receive the 1950 reports as they are published. A high school library should have at least the population and agricultural reports on Mississippi.

A second important source of information about the people of Mississippi is the Division of Vital Statistics of the Mississippi State Board of Health. Its reports contain information on the births, deaths, marriages and divorces which occur month by month in the state. These facts are obtained not by

counting or *enumeration* as in the Census, but by *registration.* Of course every marriage and every divorce, being legal matters, are registered by the proper county official who reports them to Jackson. Every birth, live or stillborn, must also be registered. The doctor, midwife or other person in attendance is required by law to fill out a *birth certificate* which goes on file in Jackson. If a couple living in Tunica county has a baby while in Memphis, or living in Simpson county has a baby in Jackson, the certificate is registered from the county where the parents regularly live.

Deaths are registered in much the same way. Neither an undertaker nor anyone else may legally bury a body until he and the doctor have properly filled out a *death certificate.* The numbers of marriages and divorces influence the number of births, and the numbers of people being born and dying influence both the number and kinds of people in the state. Therefore, Mississippi Vital Statistics reports contain much information of importance to us.

SO WHAT?

Suppose our library does have these federal and state reports! Suppose this bulletin does try to summarize and interpret some of the facts in them! All these dry "statistics" couldn't be important, could they? Are they of interest to anyone except a few college professors? Do they mean anything to me, the reader of this bulletin?

The curious will read on to find out for themselves.

To convince the doubtful that information about the people of Mississippi is important, and can perhaps be interesting, many things could be said. Perhaps it will be sufficient to point out a few ways that population facts have been or could be used in Mississippi to help us understand and solve our problems.

The federal government has made available to the states millions of dollars for planning and building state-wide hospital systems. Mississippi was the first state to qualify, and our

construction program is now underway. The Mississippi Commission on Hospital Care had to know many things before deciding how many hospitals were needed and where they should be located. One kind of information it collected was about population: the numbers of old and young, white and Negro, and the numbers of births and deaths in the various counties and districts of the state. These facts helped the Commission determine where new hospital facilities are needed.

The 1948 session of the Legislature authorized a study of the state's highway system. The experts employed to make this study collected data on the size and location of towns, and on the distribution and density of population all over the state. These facts aided them in deciding where improved roads are needed. The Agricultural and Industrial Board is responsible for planning the development of industry in the state. It needs to know the numbers of men and women, white and Negro, of different ages in the different parts of the state. Knowledge of the education and occupational skills of available workers is also important in deciding what kind of industry is suited to the different communities in the state. Chambers of Commerce and individual business men also use similar information. The Department of Public Welfare which gives assistance to the needy aged and to dependent children needs to know the numbers of old people and children in each county.

The population is always changing, however. Some parts of the state are growing while others are declining in population. The proportions of white and Negro, rural and urban, old and young are changing in the different parts of the state. All the agencies and groups mentioned above are interested in the future, as well as the present, population. Hospitals, roads, industries and schools for today may not be located properly in years to come. Careful study of present population facts makes possible estimates of future conditions. While estimates are not absolutely accurate, they are close enough over a 10-to-20-year period to provide a safe basis for planning. One example of population estimates now greatly needed is that of school-

age children. The high birth rates of recent years make it desirable if not necessary to know how many first-graders there will be in 1952, how many will be starting to high school in 1959 and to college in 1965. Otherwise we may not have enough teachers and classrooms ready for them.

These are but a few examples of the ways that facts from the census and vital statistics reports can be used to answer practical and important questions affecting the lives of Mississippi's people.

THIS BULLETIN

What then are the aims of this bulletin? It has been planned to contain a brief summary and interpretation of the main facts now available about Mississippi people. It does not contain all the facts, or answer all the questions suggested above. It is not written for specialists in the field. It is written for interested Mississippians, students and citizens, who we hope will find it useful in extending their knowledge of the state. It may be of particular interest and use to those community and state leaders who require special knowledge of the people with whom and for whom they work. Perhaps it can be used as a basis for group study and discussion, as well as for individual reading. High school classes might find here a unit of work; or adult organizations, the basis for one or more programs.

At the time this bulletin was written, the last population census had been taken in 1940. Most of the data herein are therefore that old, but a few later estimates are used. The vital statistics data are much more up to date. Although another census will be taken in 1950, it will be two or three years before its main reports appear. It was thought desirable, therefore, to prepare this statement now. Should this bulletin prove useful or interesting, a revision can be prepared on the basis of the 1950 facts. Looking forward to that, the authors will appreciate suggestions for improvement, based either on individual reading or on use in class or study groups.

CHAPTER II

SETTLEMENT AND GROWTH

An understanding of present-day Mississippi and Mississippians must be rooted in some knowledge of the past. We do not have the space, nor the knowledge, for writing a history book here. The reader has studied history, and will remember some of it. Assuming that knowledge, let us here briefly review the settlement of the state and sketch the over-all picture of its growth to date.[1]

As we know, Mississippi was originally inhabited by a number of Indian tribes, several of whom were prosperous and powerful. The early history of the state is in part the study of their reduction in numbers through wars, poverty and eventual removal to other areas. Remnants of the Choctaw on a reservation near Philadelphia and a few scattered individuals and groups are all that now remain.

The first European settlers were the French under d'Iberville. They first touched the Coast at what is now Ocean Springs in 1699. Settlement spread along the coast from this point east to Mobile and west to the Mississippi River. The main settlement, the first important outpost of the European way of life in what is now Mississippi, was in the Natchez area. This began to flourish following 1716, and eventually spread from New Orleans all the way up to the mouth of the Yazoo river. In the years that followed, control in this area was argued over and disputed among France, Spain, England, and later the infant United States. The people of the Natchez district originally were predominately French. After 1765, however, settlers, mostly from Great Britain, began to come in from the

[1]The following information is taken largely from Federal Writers Project, *Mississippi, A Guide to the Magnolia State,* N. Y.: Viking Press, 1938; Gray, L. C. and Thompson, Esther, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860,* N. Y.: Peter Smith, 1941; Foreman, Paul B., *Mississippi Population Trends,* Nashville: Joint University Libraries, 1939; and Monette, John W., *History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi,* Vol. 1, N. Y.: Harpers, 1846.

Carolinas, Georgia, and later from Virginia, Maryland and even farther up the Atlantic coast. Spain acquired title to this and other territories during the American Revolution and ruled it until 1798; thus some Spanish settlers were added to the mixture.

The United States obtained undisputed possession in 1798, and on April 7 of that year Congress created the Mississippi Territory comprising the present states of Alabama and Mississippi. After formation of the territory, more and more people from the older states moved into the area, and settled mainly around Natchez. The state of Mississippi was created Dec. 10, 1817, with approximately the boundaries it has today. At that time, there were only about 50,000 non-Indians in the state, mostly around Natchez but some along the coast and a few scattered elsewhere. Most of these non-Indians were probably planters, their slaves and others involved in the plantation system. Most of the state was, in effect, "Indian territory."

Between 1817 and 1832, settlement spread over most of the state. There was a "cotton boom" on, and prices were high. In the older Cotton South, the soil was already losing its fertility, while in Mississippi, land was plentiful and cheap. Many settlers came in, therefore, especially from the Piedmont area of the Carolinas and Georgia. It is probable that many of them were small farmers, in contrast to the planters who had previously predominated.

During this period the Natchez Trace was one of the nation's "main highways." Entering the state below Iuka, travellers on their way from Nashville on the Cumberland to Natchez on the Mississippi passed through Indian country by the spots where Tupelo, Houston, Kosciusko, Jackson and Port Gibson now stand. However, the shipment of farm products and other goods, as well as much travel, was done by water; and the settlement of the state was tied to its navigable rivers. There was the early Natchez area settlement on the Mississippi; and almost as early, farmers settled on the Pascagoula and the Pearl, moving up the latter as far as Le Fleur's Bluff (now

Jackson). By 1825 there was considerable settlement along the Tombigbee, especially around Columbus, having started as early as 1817. The last main area of early settlement was on Lake Washington near Greenville, from which settlement pread up the Yazoo and its tributaries to Grenada on the Yalobusha and Wyatt on the Tallahatchie.

To make way for settlement by Europeans, ownership of the land by Indians had to be ended, which was done in a series of voluntary and forced treaties. By 1805 the southern part of the state had been given up by the Indians. In 1820 the Treaty of Doaks Stand opened up 5½ million acres of Choctaw land in central Mississippi. Treaties with the Choctaws in 1830 and the Chickasaws in 1832 opened up the last of northern Mississippi to European settlers.

Between 1830 and 1850 many settlers came in, and the population grew more rapidly than in any other period. The land boom of the thirties and the coming of railroads brought cotton farmers into the hills and basins of north and central Mississippi. These lands were soon taken up, and erosion soon began, encouraging the last tide of migration into the swampy flood plain of the Yazoo-Mississippi "delta" just before the War Between the States. This section had not previously been settled, except in the Lake Washington area, and therefore the Delta was our last frontier.

The main movement of people into Mississippi was complete by 1850. However, migration of people in and out of the state and between its counties has continued to affect the size of the population and the life of the state. Wars and floods, agricultural depression and prosperity in northern industrial centers, and oil and the development of industry have affected the ebb and flow of migration. This topic will be treated more fully in Chapter V.

Table I shows the over-all growth of population in the state from 1800 to 1949. In 150 years, the number of people in Mississippi has increased from less than 10,000 to over 2,000,000. The rate of growth, however, (as shown in the

second column of the table) has been uneven. Note how much slower the growth has been since 1850 than it was in the previous periods of settlement and in-migration. The growth in several of the decades was particularly significant. Between 1830 and 1840 the population almost tripled. This decade was marked by the Indian treaties opening north Mississippi, the land boom and the coming of railroads. Note also the war decades of 1860-70, 1910-20 and 1940-49, during which the population grew very little, or even declined. The periods of the two World Wars were ones of great industrial prosperity. Factories in other parts of the nation needed workers and paid high wages to attract them. Consequently many young men and women, especially Negroes, left Mississippi to work and live elsewhere. Most have not returned. Similarly, many soldiers and sailors settled elsewhere after getting out of service. The relatively small increase between 1880 and 1890 was likewise the result of a movement of people to Texas and the Far West, then being settled.

Every year in Mississippi there are more births than deaths. The population would grow very rapidly if more people did not leave the state than move into it. When unusual economic opportunities elsewhere attract people away, our population grows only slowly or even declines. When times are hard, especially in large industrial cities, more Mississippians "stay put" and the population increases.

The third and fourth columns of Table I show how the percentage of Negroes[2] in the Mississippi population has varied. When first reported by the census in 1850 Negroes were a little over half of the total population. In 1940 they were, for the first time, a little less than half. The proportion of Negro to white population increased from 1850 to 1900, when it stood at the all-time high of almost 59 per cent. Since 1900 the percentage of Negroes has decreased steadily, and this decline is

[2]The census category of "nonwhite" includes Indians, Chinese and other races as well as Negroes. The other groups are so small in Mississippi that for all practical purposes "nonwhite" means "Negro."

TABLE I

POPULATION OF MISSISSIPPI, 1800-1949

(Showing Race and Residence)

Years	Total Population Number	Per Cent Change By Decades	Race White (Per Cent)	Race Nonwhite (Per Cent)	Residence Urban (Per Cent)	Residence Rural (Per Cent)
1949	2,130,000[1]	–2.5	...	...	...	...
1940	2,183,796	8.7	50.7	49.3	19.8	80.2
1930	2,009,821	12.2	49.7	50.3	16.9	83.1
1920	1,790,618	–0.4	47.7	52.3	13.4	86.6
1910	1,797,114	15.8	43.7	56.3	11.5	88.5
1900	1,551,270	20.3	41.3	58.7	7.7	92.3
1890	1,289,600	14.0	42.2	57.8	5.4	94.6
1880	1,131,597	36.7	42.4	57.6	3.1	96.9
1870	827,922	4.6	46.2	53.8	4.0	96.0
1860	791,305	30.5	44.7	55.3	2.6	97.4
1850	606,526	61.5	48.8	51.2	1.8	98.2
1840	375,651	175.0	...	...	1.0	99.0
1830	136,621	81.1	...	...	2.0	98.0
1820	75,448	87.0	...	...	...	100.0
1810	40,352[2]	356.0	...	...	...	100.0
1800	8,850[2]	...	...	...	...	100.0

[1]Estimate by United States Census.

[2]That part of the population of the Mississippi Territory estimated to have been within present state boundaries.

expected to continue. Later chapters will deal with the Negro population in more detail.

The census distinguishes between the people whom it considers urban and rural. The *urban population* of Mississippi includes all persons living in incorporated towns and cities of 2,500 and over. The *rural population* includes all others: those living in the open country and in villages and towns of less than 2,500 residents. Beginning in 1920, the census made a further division. The rural population was divided into *rural-farm* and *rural-nonfarm.* The rural-nonfarm category is something of a "catch-all." It includes the residents of smaller towns and villages, persons who live in suburban areas outside the city limits of towns 2,500 and over, and persons in the open country who do not live on farms.

Table II and the last two columns of Table I show us the residential distribution of the Mississippi population. First of all, we are, and always have been a rural people; in fact, Mississippi is the most rural state in the nation. A larger percentage of Mississippians live outside of towns of 2,500 and above than is the case in any other state. The percentage of townspeople, however, has been steadily increasing, especially since 1900; but even in 1940 only 20 per cent of all Mississippians were urban. The proportion of persons classed as rural-nonfarm has changed very little since 1920. It is noteworthy that the urban growth has been taking place at the expense of the farm population. The latter decreased from 71 to 64 per cent of the state's total population between 1920 and 1940. Although the trend toward a larger urban population is one of the most important affecting the state today, we are still predominately a state of farmers and other rural groups. In understanding our state and its problems we should remember that, in 1940, 64 per cent of all Mississippians were farmers and their families.

TABLE II

PLACE OF RESIDENCE OF MISSISSIPPIANS, 1920-1940

Residence Groups	1940 (Per Cent)	1930 (Per Cent)	1920 (Per Cent)
Urban	19.8	16.9	13.4
Rural	80.2	83.1	86.6
Nonfarm	*16.1*	*15.4*	*15.7*
Farm	*64.1*	*67.7*	*70.9*
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER III

PEOPLE ARE BORN

There are really just four main ways in which the size and the composition of a population are affected. (1) Babies are born and (2) people move into an area—adding to its existing residents; (3) people of all ages die and (4) people move out of the area—subtracting from its numbers. There are many things, of course, which influence the number and kinds of people who are born, die and move. Some influences are economic and political, some social and personal, and some biological. We study their effects, however, under the three headings of fertility, mortality and migration.

Fertility is the word used by students of population to designate the number of births, the actual rate at which a group reproduces itself. Under ordinary conditions, babies are the largest group of new members in a society. It is not surprising, then, that throughout history people have been interested in and concerned about this "source of supply." At times, people have tried to decrease or limit the size of their population by reducing the number of births, or even by killing new-born babies. Frequently, they have tried to increase the number being born. For example, a number of modern nations give prizes, bonuses or loans to the parents of children, especially of large families.

There is much debate at present as to whether there are too many or too few persons in the United States and in the world. This is a difficult question to answer. It should be obvious, however, that the fertility of a group affects its welfare in important ways. The number of babies affects the size of the group. The size of the group, in relation to its natural resources and its economic system, affects its standard of living.

If we in Mississippi are interested in the future of our state, if we would plan to make it the kind we want, then we must have some knowledge regarding our main source of new citizens.

This knowledge can come in answer to such questions as: How does the number of babies born each year compare with the number of persons who die? Are there too few to keep up the present size? Are there enough to produce an increase? How big an increase or decrease? Are the people of the various sections and groups within the state having babies at the same rate? Are babies born in the areas and to the families which can give them adequate support, medical care and education?

REPLACEMENT

The answers to these questions are not as easy as they might seem. In 1947, 66,791 births were reported in Mississippi. What does this tell us? Very little by itself. In the same year 19,833 deaths were reported. This is a very large balance or surplus of births over deaths. A difference about this large has occurred each year for a long time. In other words, the fertility of Mississippi is high enough to produce a large increase in the population, IF no one moved in or out of the state. A formula, called the net reproduction rate, is used to estimate the amount of such an increase or decrease based on births and deaths. It *assumes* that there is no migration either in or out of the state. When this rate is 100, exactly the right number of babies are being born to keep the population at a given size. If it is over 100, the population will increase. If it is under 100, the population will decrease. In 1940 the net reproduction rate for Mississippi was 128. If this rate should continue (and there were no migration), the population of the state would increase 28 per cent every generation, i.e. about every 25 to 30 years. What keeps our population from growing so rapidly is, of course, the fact that migration out of the state is very large.

The same formula can be used to compare fertility in Mississippi with that in other states. Table III gives the net reproduction rates in 1940 for the census divisions and for nearby southern states. The rate in Mississippi was very high. It was the highest in the South, and in only four states in the nation were the rates as high or higher. The national net reproduction rate

TABLE III

NET REPRODUCTION RATES BY RESIDENCE, 1940
(United States, Census Divisions and Selected States)

Division & State	Total	Urban	Rural	
			Nonfarm	Farm
New England[1]	84	78	101	*
Middle Atlantic	77	69	103	117
East North Central	92	78	119	134
West North Central	101	76	109	138
South Atlantic:	107	71	119	150
North Carolina	*117*	*79*	*116*	*148*
South Carolina	*125*	*	*121*	*157*
Georgia	*108*	*73*	*106*	*146*
Florida	*90*	*71*	*114*	*
East South Central:	120	76	122	154
Kentucky	*125*	*82*	*139*	*151*
Tennessee	*107*	*75*	*119*	*134*
Alabama	*121*	*79*	*121*	*155*
Mississippi	*128*	*	*	*153*
West South Central:	109	78	114	146
Arkansas	*122*	*	*117*	*150*
Louisiana	*109*	*77*	*118*	*148*
Mountain	123	94	138	160
Pacific	85	73	112	108
UNITED STATES	96	74	114	144

*Too few persons in these categories to calculate the rate.

[1]The states included in each census division are: New England—Maine, N. H., Vt., Mass., R. I., Conn.; Middle Atlantic—N. Y., N. J., Penn.; East North Central—Ohio, Ind., Ill., Mich., Wisc.; West North Central—Minn., Iowa, Mo., N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., Kan.; South Atlantic—Del., Md., D. C., Va., W. Va., N. C., S. C., Ga., Fla.; East South Central—Ky., Tenn., Ala., Miss.; West South Central—Ark., La., Okla., Tex.; Mountain—Mont., Id., Wyo., Col., New M., Ariz., Ut., Nev.; Pacific—Wash., Oreg., Calif.

of 96 indicated that, if 1940 birth rates and death rates continued, the United States population would soon begin to decline. It should be noted that these 1940 figures were gathered before the "baby boom" which occurred during the prosperous years of the war and after. It is too soon to tell the effects of this period on the national population. However, we may expect present fertility in Mississippi to have approximately the same relation to that in other states as it had in 1940. We can see, therefore, in Table III that it is the people of the Southern and

Mountain states who have the large number of babies which maintains the present size of the national population. Since comparatively few people live in the Mountain states, it is the South which is the "reservoir of national population." Indeed, the urban-industrial areas of the Northeast and the Pacific Coast, where large numbers of people are concentrated, are not having enough babies to maintain their present populations.

DIFFERENCES IN FERTILITY

Fertility differs not only between states, but also within a state from county to county and group to group. For instance, it is higher for rural than urban people, lower for those who have big incomes than for those who are poor. Much study, and speculation, has been devoted to why this is so. It has been thought that some groups of people are biologically capable of having more babies than others.[1] This has not been proved. While fecundity does place an upper limit on fertility, probably no modern nation has ever reached this limit. In the United States and other Western nations, fertility falls far below fecundity because of the late age at marriage and because of celibacy, divorces, birth control, sickness and the like. To understand why some groups have more babies than others, we have to look for social and personal reasons. People live under different economic conditions. Their customs and attitudes toward life differ. Groups have different proportions of young and old, men and women. If a group were made up largely of old people or of children, we would not expect it to produce many babies. In fact, the fertility of a population is closely related to the number of married women in it of childbearing age, i.e., 15 to 45.

We cannot say exactly why some people have large families, or want them, and why others have few children. Through the years, however, many people have studied these differences in fertility, and we now know that certain groups ordinarily have more children, others less.

[1]This biological capacity to have babies is called *fecundity*. It is different from *fertility* which refers to the actual number of babies born.

Rural and Urban Residence

In Mississippi, as in the rest of the United States, rural people tend to have more babies than urban people. Table IV shows this fact. The measure used for this table is the fertility ratio, the number of children under 5 for every 1,000 women of childbearing age. In 1940, the rural population had 503 children and the urban 249 for every 1,000 women of childbearing age. The rural fertility was over twice as great as the urban. Large differences like this have existed for many years. The difference is largely the result of the customs and attitudes of farm people. The fertility of the rural-nonfarm population is also higher than that of the urban, although not as high as the farm. The ideas and attitudes of city people, the cost of babies and children in the city, and the small size of urban homes and apartments help to explain why the urban birth rates are low. So most of the babies in Mississippi and in the nation are born and are growing up in rural communities, especially on farms. A map, Figure 1, has been prepared to show the fertility of all the counties in the state. The darker the shading, the higher the fertility. The difference in fertility between the counties is largely the result of whether they have urban centers in them.

TABLE IV

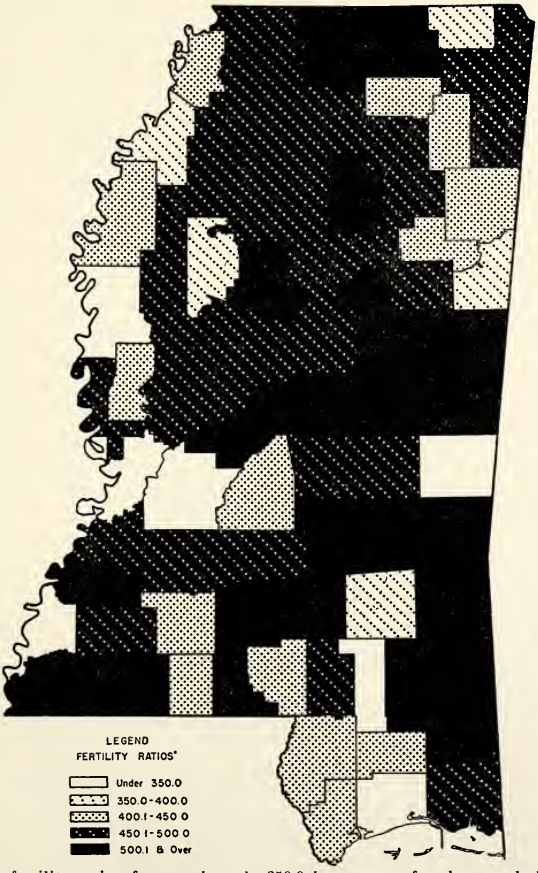
Mississippi Fertility Ratios, 1870-1940

(By Race and Residence)

	Total	Residence		Race	
		Rural	Urban	White	Nonwhite
1940	441.6	503.1	249.0	410.8	472.4
1930	484.5	533.0	296.5	505.9	465.1
1920	513.5	553.1	307.7	568.5	467.7
1910	625.6	668.3	367.7	676.7	588.7
1900	661.2	*	*	675.3	651.7
1890	682.7	*	*	674.8	688.5
1880	801.5	*	*	747.4	842.8
1870	714.4	*	*	667.8	754.8

*Data are not available for these years.

FIGURE 1
FERTILITY RATIOS IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES
1940



*A fertility ratio of approximately 350.0 is necessary for the population to replace itself.

RACE

The impression is widespread that Negroes, especially in plantation areas like the Delta, have a much higher fertility than white people. This is not entirely correct. Tables IV and V (also Table A in the appendix) give some facts regarding differences between white and Negro fertility in Mississippi. In 1947, when the total number in each race was about the same, slightly more Negro than white babies were born: 33,918 Negro and 32,873 white. As a result, the number of babies born for every 1,000 of the total population was also slightly higher for Negroes, 29.9 as compared with 27.8. It can be seen from Table V, however, that this has not always been the case. Before 1925, more white than Negro births were reported each year. However, not all births are reported. In 1913, when registration was begun, the figures were not very accurate. More Negro than white babies do not get reported. However, as the years have gone on, the system of reporting has become more and more complete, until the figures are now fairly accurate for both races. We cannot be sure just how many babies were born in Mississippi in past years. For the state as a whole, however, now and in the last generation, it appears that Negroes have not been "much more fertile" than white people.

To compare the reproduction rates of the white and Negro groups, deaths as well as births must be considered. At all ages, death rates are higher for Negroes than for whites. In 1947, 9,122 white deaths and 10,711 Negro deaths were reported. Therefore the surplus of births over deaths in 1947 was 23,751 for whites and 23,207 for Negroes, a difference of 544. Such small differences (sometimes in favor of the white, sometimes in favor of the Negro population) have been the rule in recent years. Table IV shows that in 1940 the Negro fertility ratio was slightly higher than the white, 472 compared with 411. It also shows that this has not always been the case. The ratios from 1900 to 1930 indicate that in those years the white women of the state of childbearing age were replacing themselves more rapidly than the Negro women of the same age. This was a time

TABLE V

NUMBER OF BIRTHS REPORTED IN MISSISSIPPI

(1913-1947)

	Number of Births Reported			Rate per 1,000 Population		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
1947	66,791	32,873	33,918	28.9	27.8	29.9
1946	61,863	30,119	31,744	26.9	25.7	28.2
1945	54,165	24,042	30,123	27.2	23.7	30.9
1944	56,899	25,997	30,902	28.5	25.5	31.6
1943	59,408	27,611	31,797	28.9	26.4	31.6
1942	56,521	25,306	31,215	25.4	22.4	28.6
1941	54,561	24,167	30,394	24.7	21.6	28.0
1940	52,526	23,084	29,442	24.0	20.9	27.1
1939	52,288	23,505	28,783	24.0	21.4	26.7
1938	53,729	24,046	29,683	24.9	22.1	27.7
1937	52,170	23,285	28,885	24.4	21.7	27.1
1936	49,261	22,194	27,067	23.2	20.8	25.6
1935	48,291	21,972	26,319	22.9	20.8	25.0
1934	47,905	22,342	25,563	22.9	21.4	24.5
1933	44,184	20,407	23,777	21.3	19.7	22.9
1932	46,481	21,883	24,598	22.6	21.4	23.9
1931	45,123	21,637	23,486	22.2	21.4	22.9
1930	47,982	23,192	24,790	23.8	23.2	24.0
1929	45,570	22,105	23,465	22.9	22.5	23.3
1928	48,126	23,642	24,484	24.5	24.4	24.5
1927	49,204	24,163	25,041	25.3	25.3	25.3
1926	50,449	24,600	25,849	26.2	26.2	26.3
1925	45,563	22,265	23,298	24.0	24.1	23.9
1924	43,960	22,180	21,780	23.4	24.3	22.5
1923	43,266	21,140	22,126	23.3	23.6	23.1
1922	43,723	21,286	22,437	23.4	24.1	23.6
1921	46,482	23,703	22,779	25.6	27.3	24.1
1920	43,743	22,438	21,305	24.4	26.3	22.7
1919	42,491	22,028	20,463	21.0	24.9	18.0
1918	39,391	20,005	19,386	19.7	22.8	17.2
1917	37,141	19,056	18,085	18.8	22.0	16.3
1916	39,033	20,130	18,903	20.0	23.6	17.2
1915	39,484	20,999	18,485	20.5	23.8	17.1
1914	40,623	21,360	19,263	21.4	25.7	18.0
1913	41,103	21,874	19,229	21.9	26.6	18.2

when the number of births to the two groups probably was not greatly different, but many more Negro than white babies died in infancy. Largely by the work of the State Board of Health, infant mortality in both groups has been greatly reduced in recent years.

Appendix Table A gives the 1940 fertility ratios of whites and Negroes for each county in the state. It is very interesting

to note that in general the fertility of Delta Negroes is lower than that of those in other parts of the state. In fact, Negroes in counties along the River had a ratio of about 389 in 1940: those in the Interior Delta counties, 445; and those in the Bluff counties along the edge of the Delta, 526. We are not positive as to what causes this variation, but one important factor is the high venereal disease rate among Negroes who live in the Delta near the River.[2]

In summary, we may say that at present birth rates are slightly higher for Negroes than for whites in Mississippi. Similarly, when deaths are considered, it is found that the Negro population is replacing itself at a little faster rate than the white population. However, as will be seen in the chapter, "People Move," the state loses more Negroes than whites by migration. Therefore, the total number of Negroes in the state is not increasing as fast as the number of whites. The same factors which in the recent past caused a decline first in white death rates and then in white birth rates are beginning to affect the Negro population. At the present time, Negro death rates are declining, causing an increase in the surplus of births over deaths. It is probable that Negro birth rates will also decline. One factor causing a decline in Negro fertility is the continuing migration of Negroes from rural areas to the cities of the South and the North. In cities, Negro birth rates, like white birth rates, are low. In fact, in 1940 the lowest reproduction ratio for either group was that of Negroes living in southern cities. There is, therefore, no evidence that now or in the near future the Negro population of Mississippi or of the United States will increase much more rapidly than the white population.

Other Factors

There are other factors known to be related to differences in fertility besides residence and race. Figures to show these differ-

[2]Vandiver, Joseph S. Jr., *The Rate of Reproduction of the Rural Negro in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta,* unpublished masters thesis, Louisiana State University, 1946, p. 202.

ences in Mississippi are difficult or impossible to get. However, there are reasons to believe that the same things are true in Mississippi which are true in the United States as a whole. Therefore, we will discuss in general terms the relationships between fertility and income, occupation, education and religion.

Income. It is generally known that poor families tend to have more children than the well-to-do. Old families, socially and economically secure, especially if they are "landed aristocracy," are a partial exception to this principle. Often they have more children than middle-class families who are struggling to "get ahead." But, *in general,* the more wealth, the fewer children. The difference is not altogether due to income; it is affected by education and occupation, and especially by the customs and values of the "circles" or "sets" in which people live.

Occupation. The occupational groups differ in fertility also. Farmers and manual workers have high birth rates. Professional people and proprietors, managers and officials in business and industry tend to have few children. Persons in clerical and other white-collar jobs, when struggling to maintain or improve their social and economic status, also have low birth rates. Most other occupational groups come in between these extremes.

Education. In general, the more years of schooling a husband and wife have the fewer children they have. The education of the wife seems to have more to do with the number of children than that of the husband. This general conclusion does not always hold, however. The main difference lies between those who have less than a high school education on the one hand and those who have graduated from high school or have attended college on the other.

Religion. The members of different religious groups also differ in fertility. In general, Roman Catholics and members of the Church of Latter Day Saints have higher fertility rates than Protestants, while the rate for Jews is lower than that of Protestants. The lowest birth rates of all occur in "mixed marriages." Some religious groups encourage large families and some are

against birth control. Most differences in fertility, however, result from a combination of several factors. Mississippi has a small number of Catholics and very few Jews. Many of them are of long residence so that in fertility, as in many other ways, they are very little different from the Protestants who make up the bulk of the state population.

There are indications that differences in fertility between groups are becoming less, and that they may in time disappear. At present, however, in Mississippi and in the nation, more babies are born in certain groups than others. Large numbers of the citizens of the next generation are being born to parents with low incomes, poor occupational opportunities and few years of schooling. What kind of economic, educational, health and recreational advantages are these families able to give their children?

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Let us conclude this chapter by looking at the trends in Mississippi fertility through the years and at the factors which cause birth rates to vary from year to year. From Table IV, we see that the fertility ratios have steadily declined from 801 in 1880 to 441 in 1940. Even though infant mortality has been sharply reduced, women of childbearing age now have fewer living children under five than their mothers and grandmothers did. This fact is true in general for both the rural and the urban, the white and the Negro populations. In other words, in the last 50 to 75 years the number of babies born per thousand women of childbearing age has declined. The trend was the same in the United States as a whole, and in all the industrialized nations of the Western World. Many changes in our economic and community life have brought this about. The shift from farm to city life, the development of a money economy in which it is expensive to have and rear children, different attitudes and philosophies of life, and the spread of birth control information have all played their parts. This decline in the birth rate and the slowing down of immigration from other

countries have caused the United States population to grow slowly in recent years.

This was the general trend in state and national fertility up to 1940. However, there are year-to-year fluctuations as well, which may be seen in Table V. The table includes only those births which were reported. Since the accuracy with which births are reported has been improving, the table makes it appear that fertility in Mississippi has been increasing. Let us overlook this "false impression" and carefully examine the total columns year by year. Note that in 1917-18, during the World War I, and in 1944-45, during the latter part of World War II, the birth rates declined. Contrary to what many people think, wars lasting more than a few months cause a decline in fertility while large numbers of men are in the service. Ordinarily, however, fertility is high after a war is over as is shown by the figures for 1920-21 and 1946-47.

Economic conditions also affect birth rates. During depressions fewer people get married and fewer married couples have babies, while in prosperous times marriage rates and birth rates increase. So-called "war babies" are partly the result of economic conditions. War and post-war periods are usually times of high wages and full employment when couples think they can "afford" children. Notice how the Mississippi birth rate was high during the prosperous twenties, how it declined until 1933 at the depth of the depression, and how it began to increase with the war prosperity after 1941.

In the beginning of the chapter, it was pointed out that the size of a population affects the general welfare in a number of ways. How many Mississippians will there be in 1960, 1975, in 2000? This is very difficult to predict. Birth rates change and the number of deaths and the amount of migration also affect population size. These topics will be discussed in the next two chapters. Despite our present high replacement rate, we cannot be sure that Mississippians of the future will have enough children to keep the population steady or growing. Fertility has been declining for many years. Unless each married couple has

enough children to replace both themselves and those in the population who do not have children, the population will decline. Some children die before they reach marriageable age, some adults never marry, and some married couples cannot or do not have children. Therefore, two children per married couple is not enough for "replacement." It may be that the large number of births since 1940 represents a change from the downward trend in fertility. Or, they may only be the result of war and prosperity. Only time will tell.

CHAPTER IV

PEOPLE DIE

Deaths, together with births and migration, determine the size and composition of a population. *Mortality* is the word used to designate the deaths occurring in a population. Like fertility, mortality is a matter of public concern, a kind of "social problem." It is also of interest to individuals. Much thought and study has been devoted to discovering ways to increase length of life. When we study mortality, we are interested in the number of people who die, their ages, the causes of death, the average length of life, and the way groups differ in these regards. A related subject is the amount of sickness from different causes in different groups. This is called *morbidity*. Since we do not have adequate figures on morbidity, most of what we know about disease rates and the level of health is based on our knowledge of deaths. The main source of information on mortality is the records of the registrations of deaths made by the states. Some additional information comes from the census.

As noted above, 19,833 deaths were reported in Mississippi in 1947. To compare Mississippi mortality with that of other states requires the use of a ratio. The "crude death rate" is the number of deaths per 1,000 population. According to the census, in 1940, there were 10.7 deaths for every 1,000 people living in Mississippi, while the rate for the United States as a whole in that year was 10.8. Therefore Mississippi mortality is just about "average." As we shall see, death rates are lower in rural than in urban areas, but they are higher among the poor than among the well-to-do. These factors balance each other in Mississippi, and we might "make a better showing" were it not for a lack of hospital services and doctors, dentists and nurses. The lowest mortality rates in the United States are in the Middle West, the Mountain states and two Southeastern states: West Virginia and North Carolina. The highest ones are in the New England states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

TABLE VI

MISSISSIPPI DEATH RATES[1], 1940

(By Age and Residence)

	Total	White	Nonwhite
Under 1 year	66.9	53.0	79.5
1 – 4	4.4	3.8	4.9
5 – 14	1.2	1.0	1.4
15 – 24	3.4	1.8	5.1
25 – 29	4.8	2.5	7.3
35 – 44	7.2	4.0	10.6
45 – 54	13.4	8.4	19.4
55 – 64	25.3	18.8	34.4
65 – 74	46.6	45.1	48.2
75 – 84	106.7	114.0	97.3
85 and over	270.0	354.7	218.1
Total	10.7	8.8	12.6
Cities 10,000 to 100,000	13.1	10.4	16.9
Cities 2,500 to 10,000	13.5	11.0	17.0
Rural	10.0	8.2	11.8

[1]Number of deaths per 1,000 persons.

DIFFERENCES IN MORTALITY

AGE

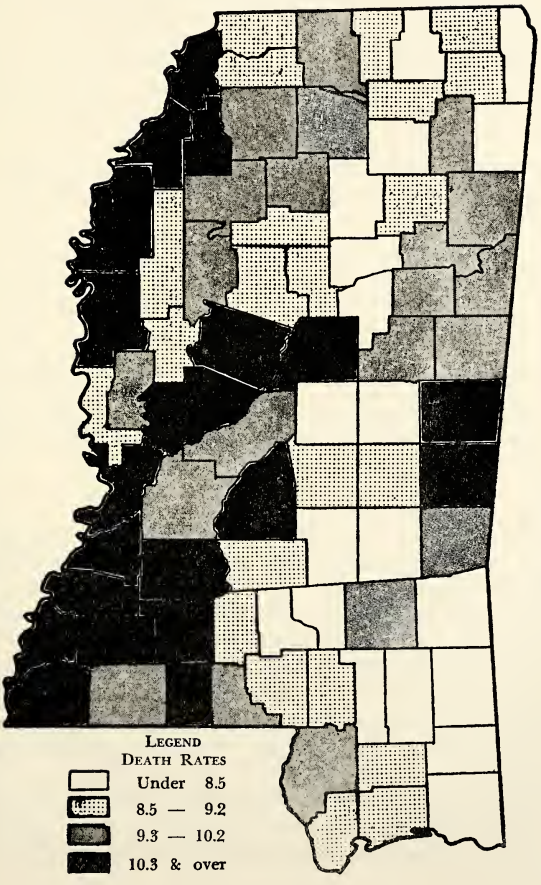
It should be obvious that death rates are not the same for all age groups. They are highest for infants and old people and lowest for children and youths. A population with a large proportion of older people will have a high death rate. The difference in mortality between the states and the regions mentioned above are largely the result of differences in age composition. In the same way, the death rates in Mississippi counties vary with the proportions of old and young in each. Figure 2, and Table B in the Appendix, show the death rates of the 82 counties. Those counties with high mortality rates usually have large proportions of older people. The fact that Negro death rates are high helps also to explain these county differences.

Table VI gives us a clearer idea of how death rates vary according to age. In 1940, about 67 infants out of every 1,000 born in Mississippi died before reaching one year of age. The first few months of life are the most "hazardous," and after

FIGURE 2

DEATH RATES IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

1943-1945 AVERAGE



these early months the death rate drops rapidly until it reaches a low point among persons about eight years of age. In Mississippi during 1940, only about one child died out of every 1,000 between the ages of 5 and 15. After the fifteenth year, the rate of death becomes higher and higher as people get older. More than one-fourth of the people 85 and over die each year. As we shall see later, the average age of the population in Mississippi (and in the United States as a whole) is increasing. The proportion of the population over 65 is increasing, and will continue to increase for many years. For this reason, we may expect the mortality rate of the total population to increase considerably.

Race

In general, mortality is higher among Negroes than whites. In 1947, when Negroes were slightly less than half of the Mississippi population, 10,711 Negro deaths and 9,122 white deaths were reported. Table VI shows that the death rates of Negroes are considerably above those of white for all ages up to 75. The higher mortality of Negroes is due to several factors: low income and consequently poor housing and living conditions, fewer available medical facilities and less use of available facilities, and other similar social factors.

Residence

Tables VI and VII permit comparison of the mortality of rural and urban people. Death rates are lower and average length of life is longer in the rural than in the urban population. Studies have shown that this difference is not wholly the result of differences in the age composition. Not all cities, however, have similar death rates: the larger the city, the lower the death rate. Mortality is highest in cities with populations between 2,500 and 10,000. Infectious and contagious diseases can spread more readily when people live and work close together, as they do in towns and cities. Large cities tend to have good hospital, public health and sanitation systems, while the smaller cities between 2,500 and 10,000 do not always have sanitary water supplies, proper sewage disposal or adequate medical and hospital facilities.

Sex

Mortality rates in Mississippi, as in the United States as a whole, are lower for women than for men at all ages. Even stillbirth rates and infant mortality rates are lower for females than for males. As a consequence, women live longer than men. The specific facts on sex differences in life expectancy for Mississippi will be found in Table VII below.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Another way of studying mortality is by means of a measure called *life expectancy.* It is possible to calculate the average number of years a group of people of a given age will live. Like all averages, it fails to tell us much about any specific individual.

TABLE VII

LIFE EXPECTANCY IN MISSISSIPPI[1], 1940

Age Interval	White				Negro			
	Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 – 1	57.2	65.1	64.0	67.7	46.7	51.7	56.3	57.3
1 – 4	61.1	68.3	66.3	69.5	52.0	55.6	59.8	59.9
5 – 9	58.1	65.1	63.1	66.4	49.4	52.9	56.9	56.9
10 – 14	53.4	60.5	58.5	61.7	45.0	48.2	52.3	52.0
15 – 19	48.8	55.9	53.8	56.9	40.4	43.5	47.6	47.3
20 – 24	44.4	51.3	49.2	52.2	36.4	39.8	43.3	43.1
25 – 29	40.1	46.7	44.8	47.6	33.1	36.2	39.5	39.2
30 – 34	35.8	42.1	40.4	43.0	29.6	32.3	35.5	35.3
35 – 39	31.5	37.6	36.0	38.5	26.3	28.7	31.6	31.5
40 – 44	27.3	33.0	31.7	34.0	22.7	25.2	27.9	27.8
45 – 49	23.4	28.7	27.3	29.6	19.6	22.3	24.2	24.4
50 – 54	19.8	24.5	23.3	25.4	17.0	19.3	20.8	21.0
55 – 59	16.4	20.4	19.3	21.2	14.8	17.3	17.8	18.1
60 – 64	13.4	16.7	15.8	17.3	12.6	15.7	15.1	15.4
65 – 69	10.6	13.1	12.4	13.5	9.9	12.3	11.9	12.5
70 – 74	8.3	10.1	9.6	10.2	7.7	9.4	9.1	9.4
75 – 79	6.1	7.8	7.1	7.7	5.6	7.2	6.7	7.0
80 – 84	4.7	5.6	5.1	5.5	4.3	5.1	4.8	4.9
85 – 89	3.4	4.0	3.5	4.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.7
90 – 94	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.2	...	...	2.2	2.7
95 – 99	...	...	2.3	...	...	...	...	...
100 and Over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

[1]Average number of years of life remaining at beginning of year of age.

For instance, in 1940 the average life expectancy for white men aged 20 living in the cities of Mississippi (2,500 and over) was about 44 years. This means that, "on the average," those men had about 44 more years to live or would live to be about 64. But some of them died in 1941; and some will live to be 85. *On the average,* however, life expectancy calculations are so accurate for *groups* of people that life insurance and other companies "bet" millions of dollars every year on them; and the insurance companies don't go broke!

Life expectancy tables have been calculated for Mississippi on the basis of 1940 conditions.[1] They are summarized in Table VII and show the average number of years of life remaining in 1940 to persons of different ages according to sex, race and residence. The following general conclusions can be drawn: (1) White people have a longer life expectancy than Negroes at all ages. (2) Rural people both male and female, white and Negro live longer than do urban residents. However, this difference becomes smaller and smaller with increasing age. For those over 70, there is little difference in life expectancy between rural and urban dwellers. Indeed, in some of the upper-age brackets, urban people live longer than rural. (3) Women have a longer life expectancy than men. The only important exception to this fact is among rural Negroes aged 25 to 35. More women than men die in this group apparently because of the high maternal mortality rate among Negro women of this age.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Let us turn now to causes of death. Table VIII shows the ten leading causes of death in Mississippi in 1940, and the rates for those diseases back to 1920. In 1940, in Mississippi, as in the nation, the most frequent cause of death was diseases of the heart. Four of the most frequent causes of death were diseases more typical of the old than the young: *diseases of the heart,*

[1]Davies, Vernon and Belcher, John C., *Mississippi Life Tables By Sex, Age and Residence,* Mississippi Commission on Hospital Care, Jackson, 1948.

nephritis (inflammation of the kidneys), *intracranial lesions of vascular origin* (injuries inside the skull due to improper functioning of the arteries), and *cancer and other malignant tumors.* Study of Table VIII will reveal changes in cause of death which have occurred even in the last twenty years. Diseases like pneumonia, influenza, tuberculosis, typhoid and smallpox used to be much more important than now. Medical science and public sanitation have had marked success in controlling contagious and infectious diseases and in reducing infant and maternal mortality. Modern health practices permit more people to survive through childhood and youth and, therefore, to live into more mature years. The present main causes of death are, therefore, the so-called degenerative diseases characteristic of older people. No more children die of heart disease or cancer now than in the past. More people now die from heart disease and cancer because more are living to the age at which such diseases are important. The control of the degenerative diseases is now

TABLE VIII

TEN LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

(Mississippi, 1940)

Cause	Number of Deaths Per 100,000				
	1940	1935	1930	1925	1920
1. Diseases of the Heart	164.4	131.3	136.1	110.6	93.2
2. Nephritis (all forms)	105.3	93.5	113.6	105.2	82.8
3. Pneumonia and Influenza (all forms)	86.7	108.4	107.1	125.1	160.5
4. Intracranial lesions of vascular origin	78.3	64.6	72.7	64.2	54.8
5. Accidents (all forms)	71.7	63.4	68.0	60.0	68.2
6. Cancer and other malignant tumors	66.2	57.4	53.4	48.7	38.1
7. Tuberculosis (all forms)	48.8	55.7	89.1	100.9	127.1
8. Conditions peculiar to birth and infancy[1]	48.6	42.2	46.6	46.4	51.1
9. Syphilis (all forms)	21.7	18.2	22.8	22.1	17.1
10. Diarrhea and related intestinal diseases	19.1	17.6	34.8	40.8	45.5

[1]"Premature births, congenital malformations and diseases peculiar to the first year of life."

receiving major attention from many medical and biological research scientists. While pneumonia, influenza and tuberculosis do not take their former toll, they are still important causes of death in Mississippi. Accidents of all kinds, although often preventable, are also an important cause of death.

Infant and Maternal Mortality

In a discussion of the causes of death, attention must be given to infant and maternal mortality, and to stillbirths. This is an area in which mortality has been markedly reduced. The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of babies under one year of age per 1,000 live births per year. In Mississippi, and in the United States, infant mortality has been decreasing rapidly in recent years. In Mississippi, in 1930, approximately 68 babies of every 1,000 born died before reaching the age of one year.[2] By 1940, the rate had declined to 54, and in 1947 to about 37. In 1940, only eleven states had higher infant mortality rates than Mississippi. Although this "standing" is not very good, it is better than it used to be. Infant mortality has been decreasing more rapidly in Mississippi than in most other states.

The maternal mortality rate is the number of deaths of mothers per 1,000 live births. A few generations ago, many women died in childbirth, but this is not true today. The rate in Mississippi has been falling and is now low. In 1930, there were approximately 10 maternal deaths per 1,000 live births. In 1940 the rate was down to 6, and in 1947 it was less than three (2.6). Although the number of maternal deaths in Mississippi has declined to this low figure, it is still about the highest in the United States. In 1940, only Florida and South Carolina had higher maternal death rates.[3]

[2]The data in this section are taken from Mississippi Vital Statistics reports. Based on registration, they are not as accurate as the Census figures for 1940 in Table VI. They will serve, however, to show the changes from 1930 to 1947.

[3]The Bureau of Medical Economic Research of the American Medical Association reports that the maternal mortality rate in Mississippi in 1948 was 2.7, the highest in the nation. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 141, No. 5, (Oct. 1, 1949), p. 333.

The facts with regard to stillbirths are very much the same. The stillbirth ratio is the number of infants born dead per 1,000 live births. The Mississippi stillbirth rate declined slightly from 48.6 in 1930 to 48.2 in 1940. The rate of 29.9 in 1947 showed considerable improvement. However, Mississippi has one of the highest stillbirth rates in the nation. In 1946 only West Virginia and South Carolina had higher rates than Mississippi.

TABLE IX

CHANGING CONDITIONS OF BIRTH[1] IN MISSISSIPPI

Year	Births Attended by Physician			Births in Hospitals		
	Total Per Cent	White Per Cent	Nonwhite Per Cent	Total Per Cent	White Per Cent	Nonwhite Per Cent
1947	64.1	97.7	31.9	41.7	73.8	11.0
1946	62.5	97.3	30.0	38.7	69.8	9.5
1945	58.3	96.5	28.6	32.3	63.3	8.1
1944	58.3	96.3	26.8	31.0	60.5	6.6
1943	56.4	95.8	22.9	26.5	52.2	4.6

[1]Live births only.

The marked decline in infant and maternal mortality in Mississippi and the United States as a whole has been due largely to the fact that increasing numbers of mothers are taking advantage of modern medical care both before and after their babies are born. Table IX shows that more and more women in Mississippi have physicians in attendance at the births of their babies, or even go to hospitals. Notice, however, the marked difference between white and Negro women. Almost all white mothers now have physicians in attendance, but about 68 per cent of Negro births are either unattended or are attended only by midwives. Almost two-thirds of all white babies, but only 11 per cent of Negro babies, are now born in hospitals. This fact goes a long way toward explaining why Negro infant, maternal and stillbirth rates are so high. The practices among Negroes in Mississippi are improving, however, mainly because of the efforts of the State Board of Health.

TABLE X

NUMBER OF DEATHS REPORTED IN MISSISSIPPI
1913-1947

	Number of Deaths			Rate per 1,000 Population		
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Total	White	Nonwhite
1947	19,833	9,122	10,711	8.6	7.7	9.4
1946	19,154	8,911	10,243	8.3	7.6	9.1
1945	19,091	8,571	10,520	9.6	8.4	10.8
1944	20,413	9,048	11,365	10.2	8.9	11.6
1943	20,850	9,139	11,711	10.2	8.7	11.6
1942	20,693	8,750	11,943	9.3	7.7	10.9
1941	22,573	9,442	13,131	10.2	8.4	12.1
1940	23,185	9,565	13,620	10.5	8.6	12.5
1939	22,701	9,464	13,237	10.4	8.6	12.2
1938	22,814	9,471	13,343	10.5	8.7	12.4
1937	24,005	10,055	13,950	11.2	9.3	13.1
1936	24,127	10,367	13,760	11.3	9.7	13.0
1935	21,285	9,186	12,099	10.1	8.7	11.5
1934	21,786	9,350	12,436	10.4	8.9	11.9
1933	21,617	8,898	12,719	10.4	8.6	12.2
1932	20,322	8,295	12,027	9.9	8.1	11.6
1931	22,007	8,641	13,366	10.8	8.5	13.0
1930	24,098	9,072	15,026	11.9	9.0	14.8
1929	25,868	10,048	15,820	13.0	10.2	15.7
1928	25,965	10,111	15,854	13.2	10.4	15.9
1927	23,257	8,765	14,492	12.0	9.2	14.6
1926	23,929	9,133	14,796	12.5	9.7	15.1
1925	22,229	8,143	14,086	11.7	8.8	14.4
1924	21,155	7,809	13,346	11.3	8.6	13.8
1923	20,363	7,688	12,675	11.0	8.6	13.2
1922	19,278	7,312	11,966	10.5	8.3	12.6
1921	19,991	7,308	12,683	11.0	8.4	13.4
1920	22,072	7,916	14,156	12.3	9.3	15.1
1919	22,667	8,142	14,525	12.7	9.5	15.5
1918	30,437	10,177	20,260	15.2	11.6	18.0
1917	23,579	8,048	15,531	11.9	9.3	14.0
1916	21,794	7,588	14,206	11.2	8.9	13.0
1915	24,001	8,088	15,913	12.5	9.6	14.7
1914	21,485	7,442	14,043	11.3	8.9	13.1
1913	21,305	7,643	13,662	11.4	9.3	13.0

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Without giving specific figures, we have been learning throughout this chapter that mortality rates have been declining in Mississippi. Table X gives us some idea of the long-time trend from 1913 to 1947. While reading the table, it should be remembered that the reporting of deaths, like the reporting of births, is not entirely accurate. Because more of the deaths are

reported now than were reported in 1913, the table probably *under-represents* the extent to which death rates have declined. Despite this fact and despite variations from year to year, we can see that the number of deaths per 1,000 population has been decreasing. However, in Chapter VI, we will see that the Mississippi population is "aging" and that the proportion of older people in the state is increasing. As a result, we may expect that the death rate of the population as a whole will soon begin to increase—unless further reductions in the death rates at all age levels can be brought about. What are the chances for this to happen?

The past decreases in mortality in Mississippi, as in the United States as a whole, have resulted from increasing control over infectious and contagious diseases, from better maternal and child care and from the extension of the benefits of modern medicine and sanitation to an increasingly larger number of our people. Further decline in death rates could come about in two main ways. One way would be to gain control over the diseases of old age. This is a problem on which medical science is now working, but until new discoveries are made and put into practice, death rates will remain high in the middle and older age groups. Another way would be to extend equally to all persons in the population the full benefits of existing knowledge regarding health and sanitation. There are groups in Mississippi whose mortality is high because at present they cannot or do not take advantage of the knowledge and facilities we have. The most significant of these groups are Negroes, residents of small towns, and persons with low incomes. If their death rates were lowered to the level of the remainder of the population, an increase in the state death rate due to the aging population would be postponed and the present downward trend of mortality might continue for several years.

CHAPTER V

PEOPLE MOVE

The study of migration is concerned with the number and the kinds of people who move in and out of an area, and with those who change residence within the territory being studied. Such movements must be studied together with births and deaths to understand both the size and the composition of a population. We have seen that in Mississippi there is a considerable surplus of births over deaths each year, enough to make the population grow very rapidly. We have seen, also, that this surplus is greater in some areas of the state, and within some groups, than in others. In this chapter we will consider what becomes of this "surplus": how many stay at home and how many seek opportunity elsewhere. It seems desirable to study the movements of Mississippians against the background of the main tides of national migration.

THE GREAT MIGRATIONS

Americans are a mobile, a somewhat restless people. It is part of our heritage to be dissatisfied with things as they are, to look and to move elsewhere if we think opportunities are greater there—especially economic opportunities. The first great migration brought to the United States the peoples of many lands. They came, our ancestors, seeking some opportunity, some way of life they did not have. Then from the original colonies and states on the Atlantic sea-coast, men and women poured ever westward: across the Appalachians into Illinois and Mississippi; across The River into Texas and Minnesota and Kansas; and finally across plains, deserts and the great Rockies into California and Oregon. It was this second great migration which peopled Mississippi and swept on drawing some Mississippians after it. Finally, with the continent spanned and most of its land settled, this movement came to an end.

Then came the changes which transformed a rural nation of farms and small towns into one dominated by factory towns and great spreading cities. As late as 1890, 65 per cent of the United States population was rural and only 15 per cent lived in cities over 100,000. Now about 60 per cent is urban, and in 1940, 48 per cent of all the people in the United States lived in the densely settled areas of the nation's 140 largest cities. Factories and great businesses developed, and the people who worked in them and lived nearby made towns grow into cities. Agricultural methods became more scientific and efficient and fewer people could farm more land while producing more food and fiber per acre. Great networks of railroads, highways and airways spread across the land to carry raw materials from farm to factory and manufactured goods from factory to the cities, towns and farms of the nation. The cities needed more and more men and women to work in shop and office. The farms and villages of the nation produced a surplus of people, more than were needed or could find employment in the communities where they were born. So they moved. This is our third great migration. People moved in large numbers from rural areas to the new frontier of the cities. A smaller number moved from city to village and farm; but it was the city which attracted the largest number. The rural sections of the nation, like the South, have been the reservoir of population on which the cities of the East, the Lake States and the Pacific Coast have drawn.

It is unfortunate that there are no accurate census data on migration except for the years 1935-40. However, from these figures we can learn a good deal about two kinds of movement: *internal migration,* movement from county to county within a state; and *external migration,* movement between states. In this study, of course, we are interested in migration both in and out of Mississippi and between its counties. We find, for instance, that one person out of every eight who lived in Mississippi in 1935 had moved and was living in another county or state in 1940, only five years later. In 1940, 183,299 Mississippians were

living in counties other than the ones in which they had resided in 1935. This number does not include, of course, many others who moved from one farm or residence to another within the same counties or cities. Between 1935 and 1940, 94,274 persons moved out of Mississippi, and 65,844 moved in from other states.

MIGRATION WITHIN MISSISSIPPI

Internal migration is of several kinds. Families and individuals move from farm to farm, from town to town and from one residence to another within the same town or city. There is also movement between country and city, and ordinarily more people move from farm and village to city than vice versa.

The story in Mississippi is very like that in the United States as a whole. Our cities of 2,500 and over do not have high enough fertility rates to replace their populations. They grow or hold their sizes because of the movement to them of people born in rural areas. Beginning at about the age of fifteen, many rural young people leave their homes to seek employment in nearby towns and cities. It is particularly difficult for women to find paying jobs in rural communities; consequently more of the rural-to-urban migrants are girls than boys. It becomes increasingly difficult for some people in cities to find work after they reach the age of 45 or 50. Therefore we find men and women of that age and above moving from cities to villages and farms to spend their declining years. Many farmers, also, make a similar move. While some farmers work right up until death, others, as they reach 60 or 65, find "putting in a crop" too strenuous for them and give up their farms to move with their wives to villages and small towns for the remainder of their days. Many widows of farmers, finding it difficult to carry on the operations of the farm, move from farms to nearby villages and towns. Thus, many villages in Mississippi and other rural states become a sort of "old folks home," especially for women.

It is true, of course, that many people do not follow the kind of migration pattern just described. Some are born, grow

up and die in the same community, while others make one of the moves described without following the whole pattern. However, this discussion does give us some idea of the main streams of migration within Mississippi. It should be pointed out in conclusion that economic conditions and other factors influence the direction and amount of such movement. For instance, we have all noticed that during the war many people moved from Mississippi farms and small towns to cities in this and other states. In periods of great industrial activity during wars and other "boom" times, more people leave the country for cities. This is especially true when times are hard on the farms, as they were during the 1920's. During depressions, when times were hard everywhere, this trend is reversed: fewer young people leave the country, and more city people move to farms and villages.

MIGRATION BETWEEN MISSISSIPPI AND OTHER STATES

Let us now turn to external migration. It is similar in many ways to the pattern just described. Since the moves are made across state boundaries, it is easier to get figures which show more exactly how many and what kinds of migrants Mississippi is gaining or losing. As stated above, between 1935 and 1940, 94,274 persons left Mississippi while only 65,844 moved in. There was, then, in five years a net loss of 28,430 persons, and this was a period when out-migration was comparatively light. (See Table I, 1910-20, 1940-49). The census bureau estimated that during the war years (1940-45), 227,600 more persons left Mississippi than moved into it. This was in addition to 176,000 Mississippians who were still in the armed services in 1945. Only four other states, all in the South (Arkansas, Kentucky, North Carolina and Oklahoma), lost a larger number of people by migration during the same period.

The Characteristics of Migrants

The characteristics of the people moving in and out of the state are as important as, if not more important than, the

numbers. Do the people leaving Mississippi have more "desirable" characteristics than those coming in? Do the in-migrants have characteristics that strengthen or lower the life and welfare of the state? What can we tell about conditions in the state from the kinds of people who move in and out? Census data on the characteristics of migrants between 1935 and 1940 help to answer such questions. What was true then is true in general for other periods of time. We will compare the age, sex, race, education and occupation of the persons who came into, moved out of and remained in the state between 1935 and 1940.

Table XI indicates that young adults, and to some extent the middle aged, tend to migrate more than children and older people. Approximately half of the migrants were youths of 14-34, while children under 14 and persons 65 and over were only about 20 per cent of the migrating groups. The important thing, however, is the age difference between in-migrants and out-migrants. In the young adult group of 14-34, 53,280 persons left the state while only 32,113 moved in. These were people who had just begun, or were on the threshold of, their productive and useful careers. The state lost 21,167 young people: lost the contribution they might have made here and lost the money and time invested in their care and education. The state had the burden of preparing thousands of people for their productive lives spent elsewhere.

TABLE XI

AGE OF MISSISSIPPI MIGRANTS, 1935-1940

Age	Non-migrants		In-migrants		Out-migrants	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
0 – 13	608,907	32	11,197	17	15,516	16
14 – 34	683,080	36	32,113	49	53,280	57
35 – 64	509,439	26	20,440	31	22,943	24
65 and Over	105,858	6	2,094	3	2,535	3
Total	1,907,284	100%	65,844	100%	94,274	100%

In Table XII, the amount of migration by men and women is compared. Among the people who, living in Mississippi in

1935, had moved by 1940, there were slightly more women than men. The figures show that as compared with men women tend to move shorter distances. More women moved within Mississippi and from Mississippi to adjoining states. More men moved from Mississippi to the more distant states. Looking at the sex of in-migrants, we see that more men than women moved into the state. As a consequence, the net loss due to movement in and out of the state was greater for women than men, 14,988 as compared with 13,442.

TABLE XII

Sex of Mississippi Migrants, 1935-1940

Sex	Migrants Within State	In-migrants	Out-migrants			Net Loss
			To Nearby States	To Distant States	Total	
Male	90,753	34,507	28,311	19,638	47,949	13,442
Female	92,546	31,337	28,345	17,980	46,325	14,988
Total	183,299	65,844	56,656	37,618	94,274	28,430

In Table XIII, the in- and the out-migration of the white and Negro populations are compared. Here, as elsewhere in this study, the census figure for "nonwhite" is practically synonomous with "Negro" for the state as a whole. We have all heard of the movement of southern Negroes to the industrial centers of the North during and after World Wars I and II. This is a matter of concern both to those interested in the relative rates of growth of whites and Negroes in Mississippi and to those interested in the supply of agricultural and other labor. The extent of migration since 1940 will not be known until the 1950 census data are available. We can get some idea from the 1935-40 data, however. During these years, considerably more white than Negro persons moved both in and out of the state. However, the *net loss* was significantly greater for the Negro population: 17,904 Negroes as compared with 10,526 whites. It is generally thought that the loss of Negro population during the ten years from 1940 to 1950 will be several times larger than it was from 1935 to 1940. The

fact that the net loss of population by migration is greater for Negroes than whites explains why the Negro population of Mississippi has been growing more slowly than the white population.

TABLE XIII

RACE OF MISSISSIPPI MIGRANTS, 1935-1940

	White	Nonwhite	Total
In-migrants	49,564	16,280	65,844
Out-migrants	60,090	34,184	94,274
Net Loss	10,526	17,904	28,430

The educational characteristics of migrants shown in Table XIV are very important. The figures shown are only for the ages of 25-34. Many of the migrants fall into this age group. Both those who moved into the state and those who moved out between 1935-40 had had more years of schooling than those Mississippians who did not move. Looking closer, we see that the in-migrants as a group had had more years of schooling than the out-migrants. Of non-migrants 25-34 in 1940, only 7 per cent had had one or more years of college training; whereas, 23 per cent of the in-migrants and 17 per cent of the out-migrants had attended college. On the other hand, 65 per cent of the non-migrants, but only 39 per cent of the in-migrants and 45 per cent of the out-migrants had completed eight grades or less. In general, then, people coming into the state were, on the average, better educated than those leaving. But notice the *numbers*, rather than the percentages, of the college-trained groups who moved in and out. A larger number of persons with some college training left the state than came into it. These two sets of facts are not necessarily contradictory. It would appear that we have jobs for college-trained people in Mississippi, but not enough to hold all our young people; and that they are not prepared for (or do not want) some jobs for which we "import" persons with college training from other states.

TABLE XIV

YEARS OF SCHOOLING OF MISSISSIPPI MIGRANTS, 1935-1940

(Those who were 25 to 34 years of age in 1940)

Amount of Schooling	Non-migrants		In-migrants		Out-migrants	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Under 5 grades or unknown	68,131	24	2,158	12	3,301	13
5 to 8 grades.....	115,367	41	4,623	27	8,172	32
1 to 3 years of high school	45,938	17	2,988	17	4,758	19
High school grad..	31,309	11	3,600	21	4,791	19
1 to 3 years of college	11,152	4	1,945	11	2,313	9
College grad. and post-grad.	7,071	3	2,002	12	2,151	8
Total	278,968	100%	17,316	100%	25,486	100%

The data on occupation in Table XV are closely related to the facts about education just discussed. The table shows the occupations of only those persons moving in or out of Mississippi between 1935-40 who were over 14 years old in 1940. While the state is predominantly agricultural, there was only a small amount of movement, in or out, by farm operators and managers. There was even less movement by farm laborers, although many of the latter move within the state. More farmers moved into the state than left, while there was a net loss among farm laborers. The numbers are small, but there seem to be opportunities in the state for those people classed by the census as farm operators and managers. In contrast, there was more movement by people engaged in occupations other than farming. An outstanding fact in the table is the large net loss of population in the lower-paying occupations. The surplus population of the state is leaving to work elsewhere mainly as clerks and stenographers, as sales people, as skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers in industry, and as domestics and farm laborers. The relative lack of business and industry, other than agriculture, in the state means that many people must go elsewhere for jobs. About the same number of professional people moved into as

moved out of the state. Of particular interest is the fact that between 1935 and 1940 Mississippi "imported" a number of people who worked at the higher-paying end of the occupational scale.[1] There was a net gain of persons who were proprietors, managers and officials in business and industry. Does this mean that Mississippi, beginning to industrialize, is failing to provide its sons and daughters with the education and training necessary to fill good jobs being created in the state?

TABLE XV

OCCUPATIONS OF MISSISSIPPI MIGRANTS, 1935-1940

(Those over 14 years of age in 1940)

	Business and the Professions			Farmers and Farm Managers	Clerical, Sales and Skilled Workers	Unskilled* and Semi-skilled Workers
	Male	Female	Total			
In-migrants	4,718	1,135	5,913	4,499	9,039	7,880
Out-migrants	3,781	1,558	5,339	3,583	13,272	16,708
Net migration	+997	—423	+574	+916	—4,233	—8,828

*Includes domestics, and farm laborers and foremen.

These, then, are some of the facts about the characteristics of the people who move into and out of Mississippi. There remains the question of where these people go and where they come from.

DIRECTION OF MIGRATION

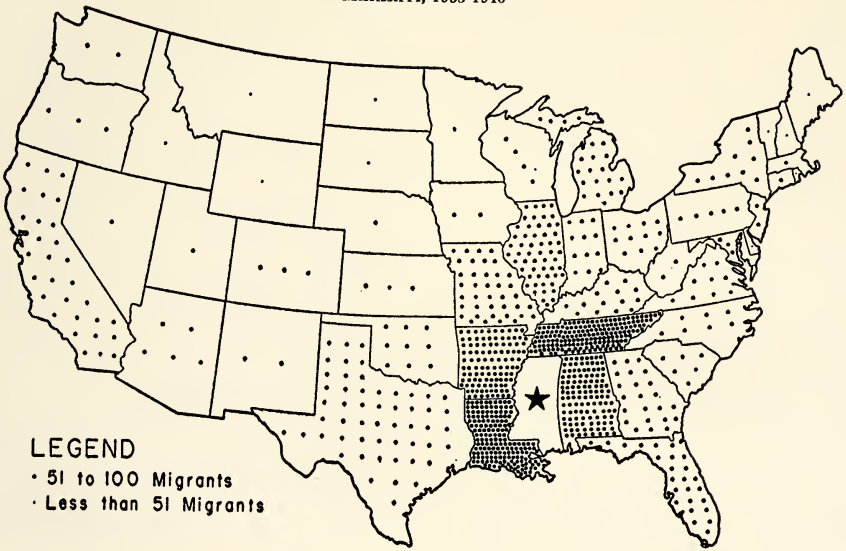
Figure 3 is a map showing where people who were in Mississippi in 1935 were living in 1940. The greater the number of dots in a state, the larger the number who had moved there from Mississippi. One can see that most migrants from the state went to nearby Southern states, and to Texas. Some of this movement was farm-to-farm or town-to-town, but some of it was farm-to-city: to Memphis, New Orleans and Birmingham, for example. Another group of states which drew Mississippians was in the

[1]Compare data on college training above.

FIGURE 3

DESTINATION OF OUT-MIGRANTS

MISSISSIPPI, 1935-1940



Middle West: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Missouri. Much of this was rural-to-urban movement in which Negroes played a considerable part. The only other area to which many Mississippians moved was California. Few Mississippians moved to the New England and Mountain states.

Figure 4 shows the 1935 residence of persons who moved to Mississippi between 1935 and 1940. It shows that the great majority came from Southern states, especially Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. It would appear that there has been much movement back and forth within the block of states from Georgia to Texas. The other states from which large numbers moved to Mississippi between 1935 and 1940 were Illinois and Missouri. We may guess that some of these were people who had gone to Chicago and St. Louis previously and were "coming back home." Few people came into Mississippi from New England or the far West (except California).

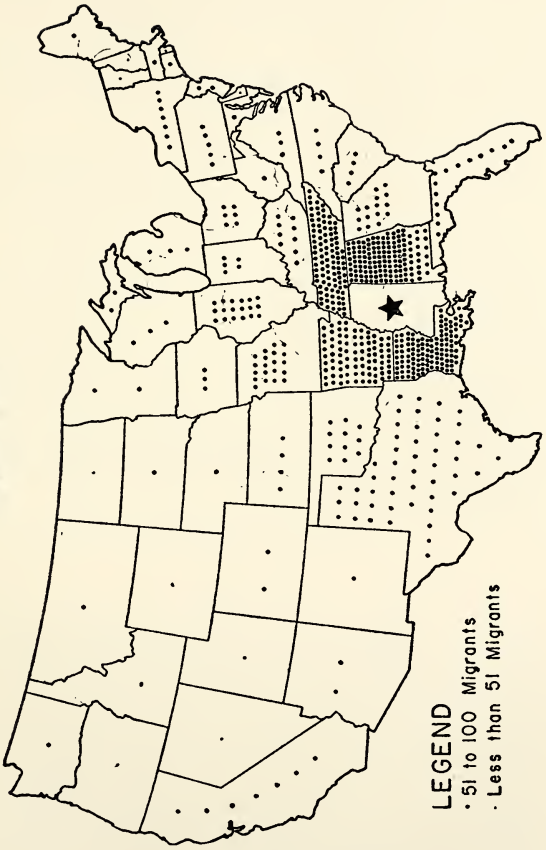
WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

It is more difficult to estimate future migration than most other aspects of population. The economic conditions which influence the movements of people are themselves very difficult to foresee. The amount and kind of migration by Mississippians between 1935 and 1940 provide a basis only for "hunches" about the future. Of all the people living in the state in 1935, between 4 and 5 per cent were living in other states in 1940. Of the total 1940 population, about 12 per cent had lived in other counties in 1935 or had moved into the state since 1935. In addition, a large but unknown number had changed residence within a county or city. In the exchange of population with other states during this five-year period, Mississippi lost 28,430 persons. Among these, young people, women and Negroes predominated. Much of this migration, both internal and external, was movement between rural and urban communities, in which rural-to-urban predominated.

The loss of population through inter-state migration is related to the high fertility in Mississippi. Our basically agricul-

FIGURE 4

ORIGIN OF IN-MIGRANTS
MISSISSIPPI, 1935-1940



tural economy does not offer enough jobs to keep all of our youths and young adults in the state. At present, the development of oil and other industries in Mississippi is gradually increasing the amount of economic opportunity in the state. It is probable that for some time, however, business and industrial opportunities elsewhere will continue to attract some of our young women and men out of the state.

We have seen that most of the inter-state migration has been between Mississippi and nearby states. There is also a significant amount of movement between Mississippi and the industrial cities around the Great Lakes, along the Mississippi River and in California. The amount of movement in and out of Mississippi in the future will depend largely upon economic conditions in such states and their cities, *and* in Mississippi itself. When businesses and industries elsewhere offer jobs with good pay, there will tend to be large movement out of the state. This tendency will be especially strong if agricultural income is low in Mississippi and if new jobs in business and industry are not developed. Should depression and unemployment come to the cities of other states, fewer Mississippians would leave their home community and state.

CHAPTER VI

THOSE WHO STAY

We have now examined the *dynamics* of Mississippi's population. We have seen that many more people are born annually than die, resulting in a potential surplus of population. And it is a "surplus," because the agriculture, industry and business of the state do not absorb the increase. People move, largely in search of economic opportunity. Such moves may be within the state: from farm to farm, from city to city and between farm and city. Others move out of the state. In most decades, more people leave Mississippi than move into it, "draining off" the potential surplus and keeping the population from growing so rapidly. In fact, during the recent war-time prosperity, so many people were lost through migration that the population actually declined. The number and kinds of people who are born, who die and who move determine the characteristics of the people in the state. We turn now to a study of the *composition* or "make up" of the population of Mississippi. This is a description of the kinds of people who live in Mississippi at a given time. The main characteristics which will receive attention are: age, sex and marital status, and race and nationality.

THEIR AGE

The average age of people in the state is not as important as the relative proportions in the various age groups. Are Mississippians mostly young, middle aged or old? If the proportion of children is high, then the state has a large problem of supporting and educating them. If there is a high proportion of older people, then the state has the job of supporting them after their working years are passed. The proportion of people in the middle, productive period of life will affect both the adequacy of the supply of workers and the birth rates of the population. Probably the best way to approach this problem is by a comparison of the number of people in the productive years (say,

15-65) with the number of those likely to be dependent upon them (children under 15 and persons over 65). While there are young people over 15 being supported by their parents and persons over 65 supporting themselves, these ages make the best dividing line we can find.

TABLE XVI

AGE COMPOSITION OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES, 1940

(Percentages)

Year	Mississippi			United States		
	Under 15	15 through 64	65 and Over	Under 15	15 through 64	65 and Over
1940	32.7	62.1	5.3	25.0	68.1	6.9
1930	35.5	60.6	3.8	29.4	65.2	5.4
1920	38.5	57.6	3.9	31.8	63.5	4.6
1910	40.2	56.3	3.2	32.1	63.5	4.1
1900	42.0	55.1	3.1	34.4	61.3	4.0
1890	44.3	52.8	3.0	35.5	60.4	3.7
1880	46.0	51.7	2.4	38.1	58.4	3.4
1870	43.4	54.4	2.1	39.2	57.7	3.0

Table XVI shows the age composition of the Mississippi population in 1940, and compares it with that of the United States as a whole. In Mississippi, children under 15 were approximately one-third of the total population, as compared to one-fourth in the nation as a whole. This results from high birth rates, particularly in the rural population. We have more children "per capita" in Mississippi than is the case in urban states, and consequently the people of Mississippi have the greater burden of supporting and educating children. This fact is further emphasized by the figures for the years 15 through 64. In Mississippi, persons of these productive ages make up only 62 per cent of the total population, while in the United States as a whole they are 68 per cent. The difference would be more striking if the comparison were only with urban states like Illinois and New York. The small percentage of Mississippians in the productive years is primarily due, of course, to the migra-

tion of young people out of the state. In 1940, the proportion of those 65 and over was lower in Mississippi than in the remainder of the nation. However, life expectancy is increasing, and so is the proportion of aged in the state. The proportion of older people in Mississippi may eventually exceed that in the United States as a whole. Even now, when the two dependent age groups are combined, the burden of support is greater in Mississippi. Here 62 persons out of every 100 support the other 38; in the United States as a whole, 68 persons support the other 32.

There are variations in age composition within the state as well as between states. Table XVII shows for Mississippi the age structure of the three residence groups in 1940. As would be expected from the differences in fertility, the urban areas have fewer persons under 15 (23.4 per cent), the rural-nonfarm population has more (28.6 per cent), and the farms most of all (36.5 per cent). The proportion of youths 15-24 does not differ greatly between the three groups. Of persons in the main productive years (25-54), however, the cities have the largest proportion (45.6 per cent), the rural-nonfarm population is next (40.9 per cent), and the farms have fewest of all (32.7 per cent). These figures give us some idea of the relative burden of supporting the dependent ages, and shows that it is much greater for the farm population. The differences among persons 55 and over are small but interesting. The proportion is highest in the rural-nonfarm population, (12.2 per cent) and lowest on farms (10.6 per cent). Urban centers have a higher proportion of older people (11.8 per cent) than do farms. The same thing is true in the United States as a whole. In Mississippi, even more than in the remainder of the country, many "cities" are agricultural trade centers with populations between 2,500 and 5,000, to which farm couples and widows retire, as well as to smaller towns and villages classed as rural-nonfarm.

The dependency ratio is a measure of differences in age composition. It is obtained by dividing the number of persons in the productive ages from 15 through 64 by the number of those

TABLE XVII

AGE COMPOSITION OF MISSISSIPPI BY RESIDENCE, 1940

(Percentages)

Residence Groups	Age Groups 0-4,	5-14,	15-24,	25-34,	35-44,	45-54,	55-64,	65 & up,	Total
Urban	7.4	16.0	19.1	20.2	15.1	10.3	6.3	5.5	100%
	23.4		*19.1*		*45.6*		*11.8*		*100%*
Rural-nonfarm	10.0	18.6	18.3	18.6	13.1	9.2	6.1	6.1	100%
	28.6		*18.3*		*40.9*		*12.2*		*100%*
Rural-farm	12.0	24.5	20.0	13.6	10.8	8.3	5.6	5.0	100%
	36.5		*20.0*		*32.7*		*10.6*		*100%*
Total	10.8	21.9	19.6	15.8	12.0	8.9	5.8	5.3	100%
	32.7		*19.6*		*36.7*		*11.1*		*100%*

under 15 and over 65. A ratio of one (1) would mean only one adult of productive age for each dependent, indicating a considerable burden of dependency. A ratio of two (2) would mean two such adults for each dependent, indicating less burden of dependency. The 1940 ratios for Mississippi were: urban, 2.5; rural-nonfarm, 1.9; and rural-farm, 1.4. Thus the rural-farm population has the greatest burden of dependency and the urban population the least. Table C in the appendix shows the dependency ratio for each county in the state. The differences shown are largely the result of the rural or urban character of the counties.

The age composition of the Mississippi population may be summarized briefly. The farm population, with high fertility, has the largest proportion of children under 15 years of age. Due to farm-to-city migration of youths, it has the smallest proportion of persons in their productive years, especially between the ages of 25 and 55. Due to the retirement of older people to villages and small cities, it also has the smallest proportion of persons 65 and over. The rural-nonfarm population is mid-way between the farm and urban in its proportion of children and persons in their productive years. However, due to migration of older people from both farms and larger cities, it has the highest proportion of persons 65 and over. The urban population is characterized by the fewest children and the most young adults and middle-aged. The smaller cities (2,500-5,000) have a higher proportion of older people than the farm population, but less than the rural-nonfarm population which includes towns with less than 2,500 residents.

Before leaving the subject of age, let us look briefly at changes in the average age of the population. Figures are not available for Mississippi, but the trends here are the same as in the United States as a whole. Table XVIII shows the average age of the United States population by race from 1820 to 1940. It indicates the extent to which the population has been "growing older." The average age of all the people living in the United States was almost twice as high in 1940 as it was in 1820.

TABLE XVIII

AVERAGE AGE OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION BY RACE: 1820-1940

(Median)

Year	Total	White	Nonwhite
1940	29.0	29.5	25.2
1930	26.5	26.9	23.5
1920	25.3	25.6	22.4
1910	24.1	24.5	21.1
1900	22.9	23.4	19.7
1890	22.0	22.5	18.4
1880	20.9	21.4	18.0
1870	20.2	20.4	18.5
1860	19.4	19.7	17.5
1850	18.9	19.2	17.4
1840	17.8	17.9	17.3
1830	17.2	17.2	16.9
1820	16.7	16.5	17.2

This is due largely to three factors. First, birth rates are lower now, and therefore there are fewer children in the population. Secondly, people live longer now than in the past. Thirdly, in the past, immigrants (most of whom were young adults) made up a larger proportion of the population. Therefore there are now more older people in the population. The trend is the same for both the white and nonwhite groups, although the average age of nonwhites has increased less.

THEIR SEX

In recent years, a number of newspaper and magazine articles have stated that many young women in the United States are doomed to a life of unmarried bliss simply because there are not enough men to go around. It is true that if there is an imbalance between the sexes some will not be able to find marriage partners. In other ways, too, the sex composition of a population is important. The customs and manners of a society tend to be different if there is a marked predominance of men or women. Sex composition affects the supply of workers in

different kinds of business and industry, and influences the kinds of goods and services purchased.

In studying sex composition, a simple measure called the sex ratio is used, which is the number of males per 100 females in a population. When there are more men than women, the ratio is over 100; when there are more women than men, it is less than 100. The regions of the United States and the residence and racial groups within a state have different sex ratios. Two main factors are responsible for these differences: migration and death rates.

Let us consider migration first. When people move short distances from rural to urban areas, there are more women than men migrants. Women do not "pull up stakes" as readily as men when the move is to a distant, perhaps strange place. Consequently, there are more men than women among long-distance migrants. Several streams of long-distance migration have affected the sex ratio of the United States population: (1) from Europe and the other countries of the world to the United States; (2) from the settled East to the frontiers of the West; and (3) from the farms and villages of the South, Southwest and the Plains states to the industrial centers of the Northeast, the Lake states and the Far West. In all these migrations, more men than women moved.

Death rates, also, influence sex composition. Among newborn babies there are more boys than girls. Ordinarily, about 106 boy babies are born for every 100 girl babies. This ratio at birth is surprisingly constant. However, the rates of stillbirths and miscarriages are higher for males than for females. As a result, a lower sex ratio at birth is found among those groups where poor living conditions and lack of medical care reduce the proportion of live births to total pregnancies. For example, the sex ratio at birth for the Mississippi Negro population is about 103. At birth, then, there are more males than females. We saw in Chapter IV, however, that death rates are higher at all ages for men than women. Therefore, as age advances, the higher death rates of males gradually reduce the difference until in the

upper age groups there are more females than males. A population with a large proportion of older people will tend to have more women than men. A population with a large proportion of children and young people will tend to have more males than females.

Table XIX shows the sex ratios in 1930 and 1940 for Mississippi as a whole and for its main residential, racial and nationality groups. Notice first of all that the ratio of men to women has declined. This trend has been going on in Mississippi and the nation for a number of years. In the period when millions of immigrants were coming to the United States, it had considerably more men than women. The same was true in Mississippi while it was being settled. Foreign-born whites and "other races" make up a very small proportion of the Mississippi population. The sex ratios of these groups in Table XIX indicate the great surplus of males over females characteristic of long-distance migrants. As they grow older, their sex ratio declines—provided no more long-distance migrants arrive. As the original migrants die and are replaced by their children, a more balanced sex ratio develops. Relatively few migrants have come to the United States since shortly after World War I. Therefore, present sex ratios in the United States, and especially in Mississippi, are largely the result of current births, deaths and migration. In the nation as a whole the sex ratio has declined to a point where numbers of males and females are approximately equal.

Table XIX also shows the difference in sex composition between the rural and urban residence groups. There are more men than women in the farm population, slightly more women than men in the rural-nonfarm group, and considerably more women than men in the urban areas. This is true, not only for the state as a whole, but also for both the native-born white and Negro groups. The same rural-urban differences are found in all the states and are mainly the result of farm to city migration. In this movement, let us remember, women outnumber men.

TABLE XIX

MISSISSIPPI SEX RATIOS, 1930 AND 1940

(Showing Residence, Race and Nativity)

Residence	Native White	Foreign-born White	Negro	Other Races	Total
1940					
Urban	91.6	155.4	81.0	216.0	87.5
Rural					
Nonfarm	95.7	160.0	88.8	176.3	93.5
Farm	106.9	160.7	101.2	101.9	103.7
Total	100.8	157.3	96.1	125.5	98.7
1930					
Urban	93.0	159.1	81.7	290.2	89.0
Rural					
Nonfarm	98.1	176.9	96.2	332.7	97.9
Farm	107.1	160.9	100.7	103.6	103.5
Total	102.3	163.0	97.4	141.8	100.0

We will now compare the native-born white and Negro columns in Table XIX. For all residence groups in Mississippi, the ratio of men to women is lower for Negroes than for whites. This difference is particularly marked in the urban population. There are several reasons for white-Negro differences in sex composition. In the first place, the census never succeeds in counting everybody. The underenumeration is greater for Negro than for white men. However, the inaccuracy in the census is not great enough to explain away all the differences in white and Negro sex ratios. Secondly, it should be remembered that Negro sex ratios are lower at birth, due to a larger proportion of stillbirths. Finally, and importantly, migration comes in. Much of the migration out of Mississippi and other Southern states is long-distance migration. Certainly among Negroes, and probably among whites as well, more men than women move from the farms and small towns of the South to distant industrial cities in the North and the Far West. All these factors help explain why, in 1940, there were only 96 Negro men for every 100 Negro women, while in the white population the sexes were equal in number.

Figure 5 and Table D in the Appendix show the sex ratios for all Mississippi counties in 1940. The differences in sex composition between the counties reflect, in the main, their rural or urban character *and* the varying proportions of white to Negro population.

Table XX allows us to compare the sex composition of Mississippi with that of the remainder of the United States. In 1940, the sex ratio in Mississippi was 98.7. A surplus of females over males is typical of the Southeast. Despite the essentially agricultural character of the region, women outnumber men here, which is due to the large proportion of Negroes in the population and to the fact that in migration out of the region men outnumber women. Other regions of the United States follow the typical rural-urban pattern of differences pretty closely. In the more urbanized regions there are more women

TABLE XX

SEX RATIOS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1940

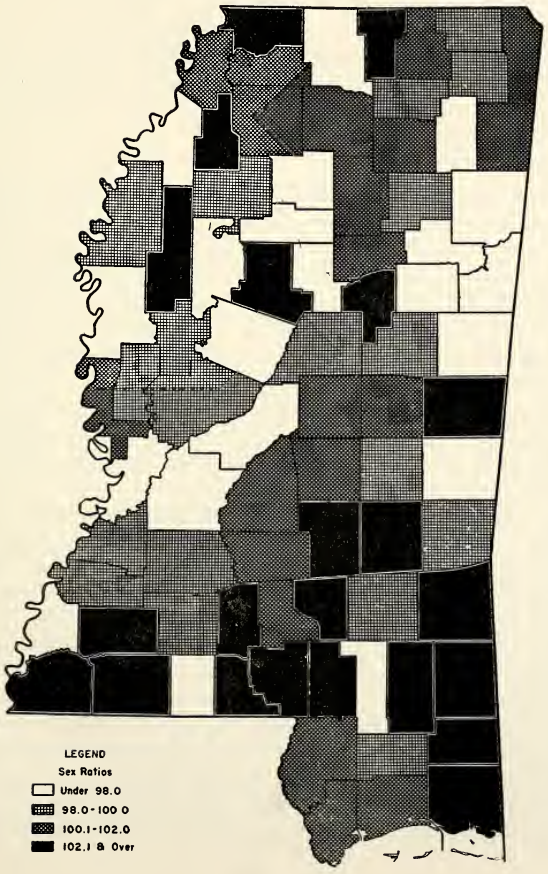
(Census Divisions and Selected States)

Division & State	Sex Ratio
New England	97.0
Middle Atlantic	99.1
East North Central	101.9
West North Central	102.1
South Atlantic	99.1
North Carolina	*98.6*
South Carolina	*97.0*
Georgia	*96.6*
Florida	*98.8*
East South Central	99.1
Kentucky	*101.8*
Tennessee	*98.4*
Alabama	*97.7*
Mississippi	*98.7*
West South Central	100.8
Arkansas	*101.7*
Louisiana	*98.4*
Mountain	107.4
Pacific	105.0
UNITED STATES	100.7

FIGURE 5

SEX RATIOS IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

1940



than men. In agricultural sections like the Middle West and the Southwest, there are more men than women. The Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states have quite high sex ratios. They have large rural populations and, having been settled recently, still contain many "early settlers" among whom men greatly out-numbered women. The District of Columbia has the lowest sex ratio, only 92 men per 100 women. Nevada has the highest, 125 men per 100 women.

Marital Composition

The marital status of persons in a population is very closely related to its age and sex composition. Most people get married as young adults. Therefore, a population with a large proportion of children will have a small percentage of the total population married. Obviously, if one is to marry, there must be an available person of the opposite sex and of suitable age. When the sex ratio is above or below 100, some persons have to remain unmarried.

Table XXI contains information on the marital status of Mississippians aged 15 and over in 1940, and permits comparisons with those of other states and sections of the country. Not shown in the table is the fact that eleven out of every twelve people in the United States who reach the age of fifteen eventually marry, at least once. The proportions of those who are married, single, widowed or divorced at any given time vary from state to state. As compared with residents of the other states, Mississippians are a "marrying bunch." In 1940, 65.1 per cent of the males and 63.9 per cent of the females over fifteen were married. The comparable figures for the United States were 61.2 and 61.0. No other state has a higher proportion of its men married. In fourteen states, mostly in the West where women are "scarce", a higher proportion of the women are married. The per cent of adult Mississippians who are single is low. This is fairly typical of rural areas, where early marriage is more customary than in cities. Also, there is not much place for a single

TABLE XXI

MARITAL STATUS OF PERSONS 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, 1940
(United States, Census Divisions and Selected States)
(Percentages)

Division & State	Single		Married		Widowed		Divorced	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
New England	36.0	31.9	58.2	55.3	4.8	11.4	1.0	1.3
Middle Atlantic	35.3	29.5	59.7	58.3	4.4	11.3	0.6	0.9
East North Central	32.2	25.0	61.8	62.2	4.5	10.9	1.5	1.9
West North Central	33.4	25.7	60.8	61.6	4.5	11.1	1.3	1.7
South Atlantic	33.5	25.8	61.8	60.7	3.9	12.1	0.9	1.3
North Carolina	*34.5*	*28.1*	*61.7*	*60.3*	*3.3*	*10.7*	*0.5*	*1.0*
South Carolina	*34.4*	*27.5*	*61.8*	*59.4*	*3.4*	*12.5*	*0.3*	*0.5*
Georgia	*31.4*	*23.9*	*63.8*	*60.9*	*4.0*	*13.8*	*0.8*	*1.3*
Florida	*29.3*	*20.2*	*64.3*	*63.1*	*4.8*	*14.4*	*1.6*	*2.4*
East South Central	30.9	23.5	64.0	62.7	4.1	12.2	1.0	1.5
Kentucky	*31.7*	*24.1*	*62.8*	*63.1*	*4.3*	*11.3*	*1.2*	*1.5*
Tennessee	*30.7*	*23.8*	*64.1*	*62.1*	*4.2*	*12.4*	*1.1*	*1.7*
Alabama	*31.1*	*23.7*	*64.3*	*62.2*	*3.9*	*12.8*	*0.7*	*1.3*
Mississippi	*30.0*	*22.1*	*65.1*	*63.9*	*4.2*	*12.7*	*0.8*	*1.3*
West South Central	30.3	21.8	64.1	64.2	4.3	12.0	1.4	2.1
Arkansas	*29.4*	*20.5*	*64.6*	*65.5*	*4.8*	*12.3*	*1.2*	*1.6*
Louisiana	*31.7*	*23.7*	*63.3*	*62.3*	*4.1*	*12.6*	*0.8*	*1.3*
Mountain	33.7	22.4	60.2	65.0	4.2	10.5	2.0	2.1
Pacific	32.7	21.0	60.2	62.6	4.2	12.8	2.9	3.7
UNITED STATES	33.2	25.8	61.2	61.0	4.3	11.5	1.3	1.7

person, especially a woman, in an agricultural area. In contrast, the percentage of single persons is higher in cities.

The sex ratio of a state or community affects the "marriage chances" of single men and women living there. In the urban states and in the Southeast there are more women than men. It is impossible for every woman to "find a man," and a woman has less choice if she wants to marry. As a consequence, the percentage of all women in these areas who are single is higher than in other states, while the percentage of single men is lower. In those farming states and in the Far West, where men outnumber women, the situation is reversed. Some men must remain unmarried, and eligible women may be "choosey" if they wish. In these states, the percentage of all women who are single is

lower, while that of men is higher. In Nevada, for instance, only 17 per cent of all women over 15 are single, while in Massachusetts 34 per cent are single. On the other hand, in North Dakota 41 per cent of the men are single as compared with 27 per cent in Rhode Island. If you are single and want to get married, a study of Table XXI will show you where your chances are best!

In Mississippi, as in the remainder of the United States, a much greater proportion of women than men are widowed. In 1940, the figures were 12.7 per cent for women as compared with 4.2 per cent for men. This difference is largely the result of differences in age at marriage and in death rates. Women in Mississippi outlive men of the *same* age an average of about three years. In addition, husbands are usually about three or four years older than their wives. Therefore, the average married woman in Mississippi can expect to be a widow for about six or seven years.

The proportion of divorced persons is also higher among women than among men. In Mississippi in 1940, 1.3 per cent of all women and 0.8 per cent of all men were divorced. The difference is due to the fact that both divorced and widowed men remarry more often than do divorced and widowed women and to the fact that death rates are higher for men.

In comparison with the remainder of the country, we have about the same proportion of widowed persons, but fewer who are divorced. The proportion of divorced persons is highest in cities and lowest in the farm population. Southerners, and rural people in general, are more apt to disapprove of divorce than do people in the urban parts of the country. Within Mississippi also, there are more divorced persons in the urban than in the rural population. The percentage of widowed men varies very little from one residence group to another. There is, however, a tendency for both widowed men and women to be concentrated, through migration, in the village and suburban parts of the rural-nonfarm population. In addition, many widowed women live in cities. At the deaths of their husbands, many farm

women move to a village or urban area. As a result, about 16 out of every 100 women in cities are widows.

Certain changes in marital status have taken place in the United States in recent years. (1) The proportion of adults who are married has increased significantly in the last three decades. The percentage of single persons has, of course, decreased. This change has resulted, in part, from the fact that for the population as a whole the average age at marriage has decreased slightly. It is not true that in general people are now marrying at a later age than used to be the case. (2) It is well known that the number of divorced persons has increased considerably. Recent studies indicate that the proportion of divorced persons will be even higher in 1950 than in 1940. (3) The proportion of the adult population who are widowed has been decreasing. This is principally due to the fact that a larger percentage of widows and widowers now remarry than did in the past.

THEIR RACE AND NATIONALITY

Nationality

The United States is a nation of "foreigners" and their descendants. An estimated 40,000,000 people moved here during the past two hundred years from most of the countries of the world. Immigrants and their descendants make up the entire population of the United States. Even the Indians migrated to North and South America from northeastern Asia many, many years ago. It has been possible in the United States to take the best ideas and ways of doing things of many peoples and remake them into a pattern of life all our own. This is one of the characteristic strengths of "the American way of life."

Table XXII shows the racial and nativity characteristics of the United States, the census divisions, and of selected southern states. In 1940, less than 10 per cent of the United States population had been born in other countries. Foreign-born whites and a few persons classified as "other races" make up the foreign-born population. Almost all Negroes are native-born. The Southeastern states have the lowest proportion of foreign-born

persons, and no state has a smaller percentage of foreign-born than Mississippi. The largest foreign-born populations are found in New England, in the Middle Atlantic states and on the Pacific Coast.

TABLE XXII

RACE AND NATIVITY OF THE UNITED STATES POPULATION, 1940

(Census Divisions and Selected States)

Division & State	Total Population	Percentages			
		Native White	Foreign-born White	Negro	Other Races
New England	8,437,290	81.0	17.8	1.2	0.1
Middle Atlantic	27,539,487	78.9	16.4	4.6	0.1
East North Central	26,626,342	86.2	9.7	4.0	0.1
West North Central	13,516,990	91.2	5.8	2.6	0.4
South Atlantic	17,823,051	71.8	1.6	26.4	0.2
North Carolina	*3,571,623*	*71.6*	*0.3*	*27.5*	*0.6*
South Carolina	*1,899,804*	*56.8*	*0.3*	*42.9*	*0.1*
Georgia	*3,123,723*	*64.9*	*0.4*	*34.7*	*
Florida	*1,897,414*	*69.2*	*3.7*	*27.1*	*0.1*
East South Central	10,778,225	73.7	0.4	25.8	*
Kentucky	*2,845,627*	*91.9*	*0.5*	*7.5*	*
Tennessee	*2,915,841*	*82.2*	*0.4*	*17.4*	*
Alabama	*2,832,961*	*64.8*	*0.4*	*34.7*	*
Mississippi	*2,183,796*	*50.4*	*0.3*	*49.2*	*0.1*
West South Central	13,064,525	78.7	2.2	18.6	0.5
Arkansas	*1,949,387*	*74.8*	*0.4*	*24.8*	*
Louisiana	*2,363,880*	*62.8*	*1.2*	*35.9*	*0.1*
Mountain	4,150,003	89.6	6.3	0.9	3.2
Pacific	9,733,262	84.3	11.9	1.4	2.3
UNITED STATES	131,669,275	81.1	8.7	9.8	0.4

*Less than 0.05%.

Table XXIII shows the national origin of the foreign-born white population of Mississippi in 1940. It is a small group, less than 6,000 in all. The majority came from Italy, Germany, Palestine and Syria, Russia, England and Greece—in that order of numerical importance. It may also be noted that over half of Mississippi's foreign-born residents live in towns and cities of 2,500 and over. The only groups which have come into our rural population in sizeable numbers are Mexicans, Italians, and to a less extent Russians.

TABLE XXIII

NATIONAL ORIGIN OF FOREIGN-BORN WHITE MISSISSIPPIANS, 1940

Country of Origin	Total		Urban		Rural-Nonfarm		Rural-farm	
	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.	No.	Pct.
Italy	1,294	21.6	590	16.2	260	21.5	444	39.3
Germany	588	9.8	362	9.9	130	10.8	96	8.5
Palestine and Syria	587	9.8	525	14.4	56	4.6	6	0.5
Russia	412	6.9	264	7.2	131	10.8	17	1.5
England	316	5.3	185	5.1	78	6.5	53	4.7
Greece	286	4.8	247	6.8	32	2.6	7	0.6
Canada	270	4.5	161	4.4	68	5.6	41	3.6
Poland	216	3.6	145	4.0	60	5.0	11	1.0
Mexico	199	3.3	47	1.3	9	0.7	143	12.7
Yugoslavia	193	3.2	176	4.8	8	0.7	9	0.8
Irish Free State	161	2.7	124	3.4	21	1.7	16	1.4
Sweden	156	2.6	75	2.1	38	3.1	43	3.8
France	152	2.5	95	2.6	39	3.2	18	1.6
Central and South America	132	2.2	48	1.3	59	4.9	25	2.2
All Others	1,026	17.1	606	16.6	220	18.2	200	17.7
TOTAL	5,988	100%	3,650	100%	1,209	100%	1,129	100%

The ancestors of most Mississippians have been in the United States for many generations, which makes it difficult, if not impossible, to discover the nationality background of most native-born residents of the state. Few white Mississippians can say, for instance, "I am half English and half Scotch-Irish," for we have lost sight of the nationalities of many of our ancestors. How many of us can even name, much less tell the nationalities of, our 16 great-great-grand parents—to go no farther back than that? Some general idea of the ancestries of the present white population can be obtained from the national origins of the foreign-born white population in Mississippi one hundred years ago. In 1850, 40 per cent of the foreign-born white population of the state had come from Ireland, 23 per cent from Germany, 19 per cent from England and Scotland, and 9 per cent from France. White settlers who came to North America before 1850 came largely from the British Isles. These are the main Euro-

pean nationalities which settled Mississippi. They have been inter-marrying ever since. The simplest way to state the nationality background of present native-born white Mississippians is to say that their ancestors came from northwest Europe, particularly the British Isles. Probably 85 per cent can be so classified.

It must be remembered, however, that almost half of all Mississippians are Negroes, and that a few are Indians and Chinese.

Race

Before we study the racial composition of Mississippi, a word or two about the nationality backgrounds of the Negro population may be appropriate. We are accustomed to think of Negroes as a single group, but this idea can be misleading. There is a great deal of difference in even the racial background of persons who are considered to be "Negro." The original Negro slaves came from different parts of Africa and from different tribes. The slaves differed, therefore, in physical type: some were tall, some short; some were very black, some a very light brown. In addition, it is customary to class as "Negro" all persons known to have any Negro ancestry. Therefore, many "Negroes" have white, and some have Indian, ancestors. The social backgrounds of Negro slaves differed also. Some African tribes had a simple society and economy, while at least one had a well-developed empire with complicated social and economic patterns. And the slaves came from different social classes within a tribe. These various groups of Negroes, like all other migrants to the United States, have been subjected to the American way of life. Their biological ancestry, now somewhat diluted, is about all that remains of their African origin.

In 1940, approximately 10 per cent of the United States population was Negro. Table XXII shows that Negroes are unequally distributed among the states. The heaviest concentrations are in the South, although much less so than formerly. Many cities of the North and the East now have large Negro communities. In 1940, approximately three-fourths (77.1 per

cent) of all Negroes in the United States lived in the South, and 8.4 per cent of them lived in Mississippi. In that year, Negroes were 49.2 per cent of the population of the state. No other state had a higher percentage. South Carolina was second with 42.9 per cent, and Louisiana third with 35.9 per cent. The smallest proportions of Negroes are found in the populations of the Mountain, Pacific and New England states. Only three states outside the South had more than five per cent Negroes in their populations in 1940: New Jersey, 5.5 per cent; West Virginia, 6.2 per cent; and Missouri, 6.5 per cent. By contrast, in only two Southern states was the Negro population under ten per cent. Kentucky, 7.5 per cent; and Oklahoma, 7.2 per cent.

There is an uneven distribution of Negro population within Mississippi. Figure 6 is a map showing the proportion of non-white persons in the population of each county in the state. The percent of Negroes in each county is shown in Table E in the Appendix. The highest percentages of Negro population are found in the Delta and the counties that border it, the old plantation area of the Prairie and the oldest plantation area around Natchez. The county with the highest proportion of Negro population in 1940 was Tunica with 85.5 per cent. Issaquena was second with 80.9 per cent. The smallest percentages of Negro population are found in the northeastern and southeastern corners of the state. Itawamba had the smallest percentage of Negro population (5.3 per cent) and Tishomingo was next with only 6.0 per cent.

Very few Mississippians are classed as other than white or Negro. In 1940, there were only 2,891 persons classed as "other races." Of these, 2,134 were Indian, 743 were Chinese, and 14 were "all other." Only seven counties had over 100 such persons. The Indian population is concentrated in Neshoba, Leake, Newton and Kemper counties; the Chinese, in Bolivar and Washington counties; and Jackson county had 227 persons of "other races", not identified by the census.

FIGURE 6

NONWHITE POPULATION IN MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES
(PERCENTAGES)
1940

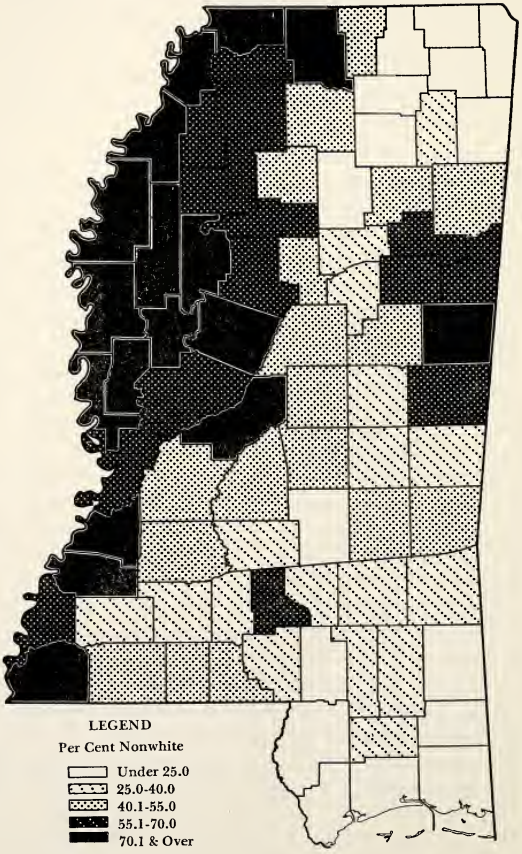


TABLE XXIV
RACIAL COMPOSITION OF MISSISSIPPI, 1900-1940
(Percentages)

Year	White	Negro	Other Races
1940	50.7	49.2	0.1
1930	49.7	50.2	0.1
1920	47.7	52.2	0.1
1910	43.7	56.2	0.1
1900	41.3	58.5	0.2

The nonwhite population of Mississippi has been declining in relative size. This is shown in Table XXIV. Not only are Negroes a decreasing percentage of the total, but the same is true for "other races." This trend results primarily from the fact, pointed out in Chapter III, that the net loss through interstate migration is greater for Negroes than for whites. Mechanization of agriculture, while stimulated by emigration of Negroes, tends to replace their labor with that of machines, especially in the Delta. There are relatively few opportunities in Mississippi for the employment of Negroes in business and industry. This is especially true for Negro men. They move, therefore, to other states where they are able to find such employment. Unless unexpected changes occur in these conditions, the proportion of Negroes in the Mississippi population probably will continue to decline.

CHAPTER VII

MISSISSIPPIANS OF THE FUTURE

The size and the composition of a population are not wholly the result of automatic factors. The fertility, mortality and migration of Mississippians result in part from human desires, choices and determinations. People get married early or late. They desire to have, or not to have children. They value health and long life, or prefer actions and habits destructive of good health. They are satisfied with the occupation and the community they are in, or feel that opportunity beckons from afar. Population facts are the results of human behavior, and human behavior can be in part controlled. Thus the future population of Mississippi is partly under the control of its citizens. If we choose, we can by study, planning and appropriate action influence the shape of the state's future population. Since the nature of the population is closely related to economic and social welfare, these too may be influenced by our actions.

Students of population speak of the *optimum population,* which for Mississippi would be the best number, the best kinds and the best distribution of people within the state. To determine the most desirable number, kinds and distribution of Mississippians involves difficult, but not impossible, questions of public policy. Such public policies should be the result of decisions reached by the individual citizens of the state. In reaching a decision, however, the citizen may, and should, call upon specialists to provide the facts necessary for intelligent study and judgment.

The size of a population, as such, is of little meaning or importance. The real question is, the right number of people for what? Here the beliefs and values of a people come in. If a nation were primarily concerned with military preparation, it might want large numbers of young men and women with high birth rates to assure replacement of those killed. If cheap labor for agriculture and industry should be considered important,

working men and women might be encouraged to have many children so that there would be more workers than available jobs. In other words the size of a population must be judged in terms of the purposes for which the society is striving. The primary goals of life for most Mississippians are probably neither military preparation nor cheap labor. Most of us might agree that a reasonably comfortable living is one of the things we want. With our present use of resources by agriculture, business and industry, Mississippi has too many people for all to have a good living. Some migrate. Of those who remain, some live close to or below a minimum level of health and decency. We face, then, a question of balancing the number of people with the supporting power of the economy. We may try to reduce the size of the population until an acceptable balance is struck. Or, we may increase the efficiency of agriculture, business and industry so that the present or even a larger number of people can be supported at an acceptable level of living. This choice is before us. In making a decision, many Mississippians will want to include social and spiritual, as well as economic, values in their definition of the "good life."

Any balance between the supporting power of the economy and the number of people is obviously influenced by the kinds of people in the population. That is to say, deciding upon the optimum population requires us to consider quality as well as quantity. Here, also, the values or ends in life which we seek will determine our answers. Let us suggest a few questions regarding population quality. First, Mississippi has a low ratio of persons in productive as compared with dependent age groups. The proportion of dependents could be reduced by encouraging a lower birth rate. However, this would be a temporary solution only, tending eventually toward depopulation of the state. The proportion of producers could be increased by developing jobs which would hold more young adults in the state or encourage the in-migration of persons in this age group. Secondly, there is the question of whether the present population of working age

is trained for the right jobs. Do we have too many unskilled laborers and lawyers and too few doctors and skilled workers? Thirdly, the proportion of older people in the population is increasing. Can their employment in agriculture and business be secured by raising the age at which workers are employed and retired? Or, should we expand public and private pension and assistance programs?

Fourthly, there are more women than men in Mississippi, especially in the Negro population. We face here a question of balancing the numbers of women and men with the job opportunities for both. Would it be desirable to have equal numbers of men and women at least in the marriageable years? We might encourage more young women to migrate, or attempt to attract more men to the state by providing special employment opportunities. What benefits might come from a surplus of women suitably employed for self-support?

Finally, there are "quality" considerations regarding the fertility, health, mortality and education of the population. Do we have more babies than we can educate properly? More than can find jobs here or elsewhere when they grow up? Is the present distribution of babies among the families of the state satisfactory? Is the number of man-days (and woman-days) of work lost annually through sickness more than we can afford? Are too many people dying before they can raise their families and otherwise repay the investment which society has in them? In 1940, adult Mississippians (those 25 years old and over) had completed, on the average, only seven years of school. The average was lowest in Issaquena and Tunica counties (less than three years), and was highest in Forrest and Stone counties (eight years). Most adults in the United States have completed more years of school than the Mississippians in even these "best educated" counties. Is the education of Mississippi's people enough to insure economic efficiency and good citizenship?

These are some of the questions regarding what the future population of Mississippi *might* be like. What it *will* be like no

one can say for sure. That depends in part on what we *want* it to be, on the kind of future we plan for and work toward. It is possible, however, to draw a few cautious conclusions about the immediate future. They assume no rapid or marked change in the economy, fertility or mortality of the state and nation.

1. In the years just ahead, the size of the Mississippi population probably will grow slowly. The surplus of births over deaths in the white population may decline from its present high level. The surplus of births among Negroes will remain at its present level for a time, and probably will become even larger, before a similar decline sets in. These expectations are based on several assumptions. For the white population, stationary or declining birth rates are assumed and increasing mortality due to the increasing proportion of older people. For the Negro population, declining birth rates are assumed. It is further assumed that Negro mortality will decrease for a time then begin to increase, following a trend similar to that of the white population.

The slow growth of the Mississippi population could be affected by several economic factors. Should the state and nation suffer a depression, the Mississippi population would tend to increase more rapidly. Great industrial activity in the nation, produced by war or other causes, probably would result in an actual decrease of population in the state. Marked industrial development in the state might cause the number of Mississippians to increase more rapidly. Continued mechanization of agriculture would tend to slow down the rate of growth.

2. The proportion of white persons in the state population probably will continue to increase. This expectation is based upon the assumption that the loss of population through migration will continue to be greater for Negroes than for whites. It is possible that the out-migration of Negroes may be increased, if the mechanization of agriculture continues to replace their labor with that of machines.

3. The present trend toward fewer people in rural areas and

more in towns and cities will continue, especially in the Negro population. The concentration of people in urban areas may be expected to lead to several results. Manners and attitudes of life will change from the traditional rural patterns. More workers will be dependent upon wages or salaries in business and industry, which will tend to increase the hazards of unemployment and make our economy more dependent upon fluctuations of the business cycle. Birth rates will tend to decline. Future death rates, however, will depend more upon the quality and quantity of health services available than upon the mere fact of urban or rural residence.

The future can be foreseen but dimly. Some things, however, are more certain. Basically, Mississippi is people. We are Mississippi. We use its land and other resources to achieve our goals and purposes in life. In so doing, we plan and operate the institutions which embody our values: governments; farms, businesses and industries; churches, schools and families. We have thus created, and we continue to create, our history. The preceding pages have reflected something of this story as it finds expression in the number and the kinds of people in the state. In population facts, we find some of the basic factors which affect our joint life together. Understanding these factors and their relations to individual and group welfare, we can plan together a better future for Mississippi's people.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TABLES: DATA ON MISSISSIPPI COUNTIES

COUNTY and STATE	A Fertility Ratios 1940			B Death Rates[1] 1943-45	C Per Cent of 1940 Population			Dependency[2] Ratios	D Sex Ratios	E Per Cent Negro
	Total	White	Nonwhite	Average	15-64	0-14	65+		1940	1940
STATE TOTAL	441.6	410.8	472.4	9.8	62.1	32.6	5.3	1.63	98.7	49.2
Adams	316.4	323.3	312.2	13.2	65.9	27.1	7.0	1.93	91.8	62.0
Alcorn	388.6	394.2	364.3	9.2	64.0	30.2	5.7	1.78	99.5	17.5
Amite	582.8	484.1	671.7	9.9	58.0	36.8	5.2	1.38	105.2	52.8
Attala	499.6	437.0	575.9	10.4	59.1	35.2	5.6	1.45	98.0	44.2
Benton	553.1	554.2	551.7	8.2	58.1	36.3	5.7	1.38	101.8	43.2
Bolivar	425.1	417.6	427.8	11.4	63.7	31.4	4.8	1.76	98.2	73.0
Calhoun	500.5	477.3	583.3	8.0	60.0	35.1	4.9	1.50	101.8	21.9
Carroll	574.5	512.2	620.4	9.1	57.6	36.9	5.4	1.36	102.8	57.2
Chickasaw	493.8	438.5	555.9	9.2	59.5	34.7	5.8	1.47	98.8	46.7
Choctaw	520.1	482.0	615.5	7.6	59.0	35.5	5.5	1.44	102.3	28.7
Claiborne	451.9	390.4	473.7	11.6	61.2	31.7	7.1	1.58	98.6	73.4
Clarke	504.6	450.7	587.0	9.7	59.1	34.8	6.1	1.45	99.0	40.2
Clay	446.8	331.0	525.8	10.1	60.6	33.1	6.4	1.53	92.2	60.6
Coahoma	376.3	331.7	388.7	11.1	66.3	28.8	4.9	1.97	97.3	77.1
Copiah	476.7	374.0	567.3	10.5	60.0	34.0	6.0	1.50	98.2	52.6
Covington	571.9	527.5	671.7	8.1	58.0	37.1	4.9	1.38	103.6	31.0
De Soto	469.0	409.3	490.3	9.0	61.7	32.7	5.7	1.61	101.7	72.9
Forrest	327.0	351.7	279.7	8.1	66.8	28.0	5.2	2.01	93.0	31.3
Franklin	489.4	471.7	515.2	10.5	60.1	33.8	6.1	1.50	103.6	39.8
George	553.1	548.7	578.9	8.1	58.8	36.4	4.8	1.43	105.5	14.2
Greene	562.1	559.9	570.2	6.7	59.2	36.3	4.5	1.45	105.7	20.9
Grenada	451.4	363.4	515.0	9.1	61.7	32.8	5.5	1.61	97.4	58.3
Hancock	436.9	445.1	406.6	9.2	62.0	31.2	6.9	1.63	100.4	20.8
Harrison	340.6	350.7	304.8	8.8	67.0	26.8	6.2	2.03	100.8	19.8
Hinds	314.1	248.2	379.3	9.4	67.4	27.5	5.1	2.07	90.4	51.7
Holmes	478.5	364.0	513.5	10.6	59.8	34.9	5.3	1.49	97.0	76.7
Humphreys	476.9	508.5	466.5	8.8	62.0	34.2	3.8	1.63	99.0	73.4
Issaquena	477.2	542.8	463.4	8.8	61.7	32.4	5.8	1.61	100.3	80.9
Itawamba	483.7	487.0	430.2	7.1	59.9	35.3	4.8	1.49	101.3	5.3
Jackson	459.6	457.1	468.4	6.0	63.8	30.5	5.6	1.76	104.0	20.2
Jasper	519.6	421.1	628.5	8.3	58.6	36.3	5.1	1.42	102.7	48.9
Jefferson	505.8	405.2	534.8	11.0	59.4	33.4	7.2	1.46	99.5	77.0
Jeff. Davis	559.9	507.8	601.2	8.3	57.9	37.5	4.6	1.37	101.8	55.3
Jones	395.3	408.3	366.8	9.3	63.7	32.0	4.3	1.75	98.1	28.6
Kemper	533.8	450.4	588.7	9.3	56.6	37.8	5.6	1.30	102.2	59.9
Lafayette	489.3	431.7	573.9	10.1	60.7	33.0	6.3	1.54	100.5	40.3
Lamar	497.1	508.7	445.1	8.5	59.9	34.8	5.2	1.50	102.3	17.2

Lauderdale	321.6	302.7	349.3	12.0	66.5	27.8	5.7	1.99	89.8	39.2
Lawrence	538.6	521.6	566.4	8.5	58.8	36.2	4.9	1.43	105.2	37.3
Leake	554.1	470.5	677.4	7.3	57.7	37.6	4.7	1.37	101.3	39.3
Lee	411.4	392.5	451.7	9.3	63.3	31.1	5.6	1.72	97.4	31.5
LeFlore	388.1	324.9	411.1	9.9	65.1	30.7	4.2	1.86	96.4	73.0
Lincoln	435.1	400.7	500.0	10.9	60.6	33.7	5.8	1.54	98.6	35.2
Lowndes	399.4	323.4	461.0	9.4	62.8	31.6	5.6	1.69	92.6	55.8
Madison	519.3	366.2	566.9	10.2	58.8	36.1	5.2	1.42	98.0	76.6
Marion	420.0	393.0	466.2	8.9	62.7	33.2	4.1	1.68	102.8	38.0
Marshall	510.9	405.8	554.2	9.3	58.3	35.7	6.0	1.40	97.8	70.4
Monroe	447.3	404.6	503.3	9.5	60.6	33.0	6.3	1.54	96.3	42.8
Montgomery	493.6	447.8	553.1	9.1	59.2	34.5	6.3	1.45	97.8	43.0
Neshoba	515.9	474.7	634.5	8.4	58.7	36.9	4.4	1.42	100.3	22.1
Newton	470.9	405.4	591.2	9.3	60.0	34.4	5.6	1.50	100.0	34.7
Noxubee	555.2	423.6	592.7	11.4	56.7	37.8	5.5	1.31	96.7	77.9
Oktibbeha	497.6	373.3	587.0	9.8	58.6	35.8	5.5	1.42	95.1	59.1
Panola	482.3	467.3	492.0	9.6	61.3	33.6	5.1	1.58	101.7	59.7
Pearl River	443.2	462.1	382.7	9.3	62.2	33.1	4.7	1.65	101.6	21.7
Perry	500.7	515.9	458.6	7.5	59.4	35.4	5.2	1.46	104.2	26.1
Pike	404.2	321.8	512.5	11.2	62.8	31.4	5.7	1.69	96.2	44.9
Pontotoc	478.4	455.8	571.4	8.3	60.6	33.8	5.7	1.54	101.7	20.4
Prentiss	483.8	483.4	486.8	9.2	61.0	33.8	5.2	1.56	99.0	11.5
Quitman	473.7	519.7	451.8	10.4	62.9	33.4	3.7	1.70	106.5	66.3
Rankin	437.4	365.8	500.4	25.5	63.4	30.9	5.8	1.73	101.3	52.5
Scott	475.2	435.0	527.6	8.5	59.5	35.4	5.1	1.47	101.7	42.6
Sharkey	433.8	455.3	426.0	9.5	62.4	33.3	4.3	1.66	99.6	71.9
Simpson	493.2	454.5	573.1	8.8	60.3	34.7	5.0	1.52	101.8	32.2
Smith	535.8	497.4	709.3	8.0	58.9	37.0	4.1	1.44	104.1	19.0
Stone	428.0	408.2	487.3	9.2	62.8	31.0	6.3	1.69	99.4	25.9
Sunflower	451.2	432.7	458.1	9.2	63.6	32.4	4.0	1.75	105.5	71.3
Tallahatchie	474.0	483.7	469.5	9.3	61.8	33.6	4.6	1.62	99.6	65.7
Tate	486.2	442.9	513.3	9.1	61.1	33.2	5.7	1.57	101.0	59.9
Tippah	512.2	500.7	567.4	7.9	60.1	34.5	5.4	1.50	100.5	17.5
Tishomingo	454.4	454.6	451.1	7.1	61.0	33.4	5.7	1.56	100.5	6.0
Tunica	404.9	384.2	408.2	11.2	65.3	29.9	4.8	1.88	100.1	85.5
Union	416.2	416.3	415.6	8.5	64.3	31.4	4.3	1.80	98.4	19.6
Walthall	596.0	514.3	696.2	9.5	57.0	39.0	4.0	1.33	102.2	46.5
Warren	294.6	300.4	290.3	12.8	69.1	24.4	6.5	2.24	91.5	56.2
Washington	345.0	360.3	339.4	12.1	66.8	28.5	4.8	2.01	97.1	72.3
Wayne	549.6	518.6	607.5	8.0	57.6	37.3	5.1	1.36	104.0	34.1
Webster	498.8	449.1	648.8	8.4	59.8	34.3	5.9	1.49	100.6	25.1
Wilkinson	542.7	453.1	579.5	10.8	58.7	35.0	6.3	1.42	102.8	71.7
Winston	514.7	484.7	557.4	9.4	59.0	36.3	4.7	1.44	99.6	39.8
Yalobusha	492.1	424.2	568.9	10.2	59.9	33.2	6.8	1.49	97.3	46.3
Yazoo	499.0	452.6	522.6	10.7	60.5	34.2	5.3	1.53	98.8	65.4

[1]Allocated according to place of residence.
[2]Number of persons 0-14 and 65 and over, divided by number 15-64.

Date Due

Due	Returned	Due	Returned

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PUBLICATIONS

1. Greenville: A City Survey, by Robert Baker Highsaw (1946). *Out of print.*
2. Leland: A Fiscal Survey, by Robert Baker Highsaw (1946). *Out of print.*
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